

# THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST

March  
1958

VOL. 2 • No. 6

OUR POSITIVE PHILOSOPHY is best expressed by Alexander Pope in his "Essay on Man":  
*"Know then thyself. Presume not God to scan, the proper study of mankind is man."*

NEGATIVELY, we stand with Jefferson, eternally hostile to all forms of tyranny over the  
*minds of men.*

- **AN HONEST RELIGION**

by John L. Talbott

- **BLIND LEADERS OF  
THE BLIND**

by Dr. Ira D. Cardiff

- **WE HAVE REAL  
COMPETITION**

by L. H. Coate

- **THE BLIGHT UPON  
SCIENTIFIC MINDS**

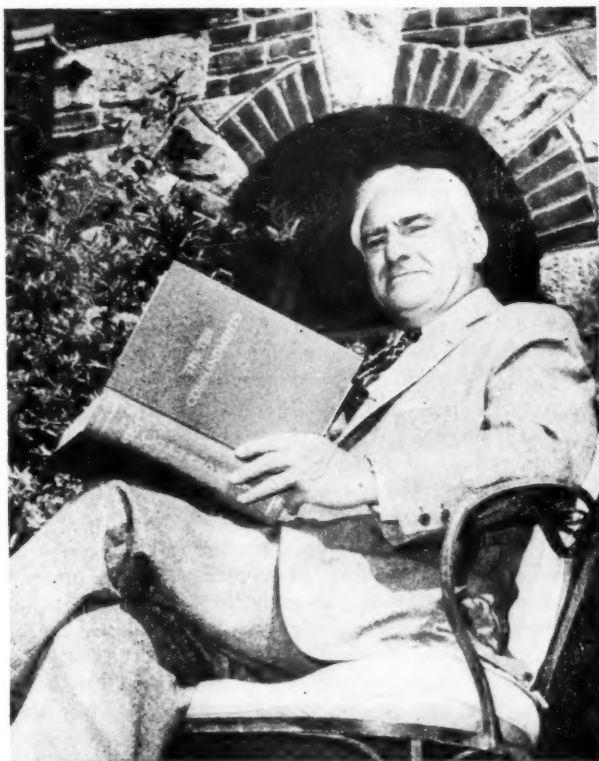
by Daisy Gibson Buettner

- **LET NOT THE PRIESTS . . .  
BREAK THROUGH !**

by Ben Parnell

- **THE OLD SHELL GAME**

Arthur G. Cromwell



- **MISSILES and MYTHOLOGY**

An Editorial

*A Magazine for the Entire Rationalist Movement*

**NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT... BOOKS... COMMENTS**

35c

## *an editorial...*

### **MISSILES and MYTHOLOGY**



A. S. HEWSON

Missiles are the offspring of science in the field of Reality produced under the spur of the instinct for self-preservation.

Mythology derives from speculations in the dream world of Fantasy by ancients who lacked the intellectual background necessary to make inductive reasoning and the scientific approach possible. Belonging, therefore, in two totally unrelated areas of human thinking, the real and the illusory, indoctrination in Fantasy tends to destroy the capacity to function effectively in the field of Reality. Whereas education exclusively in the field of Reality cannot but produce a maximum of achievement.

Perhaps this explains the sudden, unheralded forward surge in science by the Russians after their two generations of freedom from indoctrination in Christian mythology. This—the one freedom they have been permitted to enjoy to the full—and how it has paid off!

Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus), is reputed to have boasted in effect that if given the child in his early formative years, that child would remain ever the child of the Roman church.

In other words, he declared that, in life's most impressionable period and when most eager for the creative life, the very young can be diverted from the virile stimulus of reality and lured into enslavement to the fantasies of supernaturalism. In fact, he claimed that they can be induced practically to forget their manhood and become mere grubbing drones with all desire for the adventures of the mind suppressed.

If this be true—and the Roman church has proved it so over the centuries—how can we expect to develop a preponderance of competent scientists in an intellectual atmosphere so heavily charged with ancient beliefs rooted in fantasy as exists in our country?

One of our subscribers in a recent letter put it this way, "How can this be possible when we realize that from pre-kindergarten through college the pupil must wear a bulkhead in his brain with his technology on one

## *contents:*

<b>MISSILES</b> and <b>MYTHOLOGY</b> an Editorial	2
<b>QUOTUS</b>	7
<b>WIDE, WIDE MOVEMENT</b>	8
<b>SLOGAN CONTEST</b>	11
<b>WE NEED</b> an <b>HONEST RELIGION</b> by John L. Talbott	13
<b>THE OLD SHELL GAME</b> by Arthur G. Cromwell	14
<b>WORLD UNION</b> OF <b>FREETHINKERS</b>	15
<b>BLIND LEADERS</b> OF <b>THE BLIND</b> by Dr. Ira D. Cardiff	17
<b>MAIL BOX</b>	18
<b>SCIENCE</b> by Herman Stern	20
<b>WE HAVE REAL</b> <b>COMPETITION</b> by L. H. Coate	21
<b>THE BLIGHT UPON</b> <b>SCIENTIFIC MINDS</b> by Daisy Gibson Buettner	23
<b>BOOK REVIEWS</b>	25
<b>LET NOT THE PRIESTS</b> <b>BREAK THROUGH!</b> by Ben Parnell	27
<b>AT RANDOM</b> by Walter Hoops	30
<b>CHECK and DOUBLE</b> <b>CHECK</b> by Victor Cejka	31
<b>WE HONOR . . .</b> by John A. English	32

#### **INSURANCE AGENCY OF AMERICA**

**AUTO—FIRE—CASUALTY—BOND  
LIFE—MARINE**

**2617 N. 14th St. CH 1-0068  
ST. LOUIS 6, MO.**

## *the pic on the cover*

Joseph Lewis, for many years president of the Freethinkers of America and editor of the "Age of Reason," has been the first to present the views of Freethinkers on television. With two TV and many radio talks in an outspoken manner to his credit Mr. Lewis, in our book, rates as one of the most prominent leaders in the movement. He has undertaken many court cases for religious liberty and is now conducting a campaign against Billy Graham. A manifesto on Graham was circulated in New York during the evangelist's campaign there and 50,000 were printed and distributed. This resulted in Lewis being invited to appear on the Mike Wallace TV program "Night Beat," before an audience estimated between three and four million. Long telegrams were sent to Graham each week and some newspapers printed excerpts from the telegrams. More than 10,000 copies of an article on Fulton J. Sheen were circulated to radio, TV stores and repair shops and to thousands of citizens. Mr. Lewis takes credit for exposing the "faith healer," Jack Coe, who, before the court case had begun, died of the disease he failed to cure for a child whose parents were suing. For one of the most active personalities in the movement we congratulate Joseph Lewis and urge more Rationalists to support him.

The Oldest Freethought Journal  
in the World

### **THE FREETHINKER**

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN LONDON  
Celebrated its 75th anniversary recently and still attacks superstition with youthful vigor and intelligence.

**Subscription \$4.25**

a year for 52 issues.

**The American Rationalist**

2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.

side and his theology on the other? From babyhood he has been indoctrinated with biblical errors in physics and "inspired" mistakes in astronomy. He is confronted with such episodes as that of Elijah in his pyrotechnic takeoff which, if true, supersedes that of Laika in her chariot of fire. He also is faced with the later and more important event of Jesus being propelled into the stratosphere. If this story is true, we have these two bodies together with Sputnik, still spinning in their orbits or they long since have disintegrated. Another instance is the account of the sun standing still for nearly a whole day and, on another occasion, the sun being reversed 10 degrees.

"The effect upon the student who attempts to harmonize these "divine" feats with his lessons in natural law is to cause confusion, uncertainty and a mental jumble."

**The gentleman is right.** How can the young grow up eternally hearing reiterated such absurdities as an "inspired" book, a virgin birth, salvation through a savior, heaven and hell . . . . ad nauseam and hope to become scientists fully competent to think logically in the realm of reality? How can they be expected to unerringly follow through; checking hypotheses based upon pure reason which are developed to open the road for Science's further conquest of the Unknown?

Where our government makes fantasy official through "Pray For Peace" postal cancellation stamps, through circulation of money bearing "In God We Trust" and has a Congressional committee considering the proposed "Christian Amendment" to the U. S. Constitution which would acknowledge Jeshua Ben Yoseph, otherwise known as Jesus, as our Lord and Savior, how can reality remain uncontaminated by fantasy?

It is no mere coincidence that our outstanding scientists, those who have contributed most to pushing back the frontiers of the Unknown and have, thereby, made for better living for humankind, have been and are Freethinkers. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the lesser lights among them is measurable by the distance their thinking has carried them from religious fantasy. Many of these, moreover, under the prevailing pressure for conformity, have felt it necessary to dissemble as to their true conclusions.

Strangely enough, a second subscriber called our attention to an article in the Dec. 30th issue of "Time" magazine which, by indirection yet conclusively, bears out what we have set forth up to this point.

Seldom does a Jesuit from the upper echelons speak without a certain amount of double-talk and sophistry.

THE AMERICAN

# RATIONALIST

Published Bi-monthly

VOL. 2 MARCH, 1958 NO. 6

Second Class Mail Privileges  
Authorized at Chicago, Illinois.

**EDITOR:**

ARTHUR B. HEWSON  
616 N. Pine Ave., Chicago 44, Ill.

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

ARTHUR G. CROMWELL

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS:**

ELDON SCHOLL  
HARRY E. MONGOLD

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:**

DR. IRA D. CARDIFF  
WALTER HOOPS  
NAN MONGOLD

**SCIENCE EDITOR:**

GEORGE A. FINK

**YOUTH EDITOR:**

FRED ROSENBERG

**ART EDITOR:**

OTOKAR SOUKUP

**EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT:**

DAVE SHIPPER

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:**

EUGENE HOFFMANN

**MANAGING EDITOR:**

VICTOR CEJKA

645

However, in this case, except for the implication in the heading, it is singularly forthright and honest. We quote at length and verbatim from "Time".

**"Recapture the Tradition.** Until a couple of years ago, says former President John J. Cavanaugh of Notre Dame University, U. S. Catholics sincerely believed that their schools, colleges and universities were generally as good as almost any in the land. Then Monsignor John Tracy Ellis, professor of church history at Catholic University of America, delivered his famous lecture on "American Catholicism and the Intellectual Life." Last week, taking off from Ellis' lecture, Father Cavanaugh sounded the alarm again. For 30 years, he said, evidence has been accumulating that "the intellectual prestige of American Catholics seems to be lower than the intellectual prestige of Catholics in any other country in the whole Western world."

"In 1927, said Cavanaugh, a study conducted by the **American Mercury** found that "for every 100,000 Jews in this country, there are 20 listed in "Who's Who"; for every 100,000 Seventh-day Adventists, there are eleven in "Who's Who"; and that, however, for every 100,000 Catholics there are only seven in "Who's Who"—hardly more than one-third of the proportion of the Jews.

**"Three out of 303.** A study made by the Scientific Monthly was equally unsettling. "Out of 303 names chosen for their eminence in science, only three were found to be Catholic." A 1952 study of American Men of Science showed that of 50 institutions turning out the most scientists, not one was Catholic. "I certainly take no delight in disturbing your mind with such humiliating evidence. We could, however, reflect upon many other facts to show that the 35 million Catholics of this country and our Catholic educational system are not producing anywhere near their proportion of leaders. Of the 96 U. S. Senators, there are, for example, only ten Catholics; of the 50 so-called business leaders announced by Forbes magazine last month, only two are Catholic, and one of these two, Henry Ford II, is a convert. Even

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST is published bi-monthly by the Rationalist Publications. Publication office: 4124 W. 26th Street, Chicago 23, Ill. All manuscripts should be directed to the editor of the AMERICAN RATIONALIST, Arthur B. Hewson, 616 North Pine Avenue, Chicago 44, Illinois. All other matter, such as subscriptions, advertisements, book orders, etc., send to the AMERICAN RATIONALIST, 2218 St. Louis Avenue, St. Louis 8, Missouri. Manuscripts accepted for publication are subject to editing or condensation. Printed articles may be used by other publications, unless otherwise specified, provided credit is given to the AMERICAN RATIONALIST. All editorials and articles express the views and opinions of individual contributors.

BUNDLE ORDERS: 5-24 copies and more, 25c each; 25 copies and more, 20c each. SUBSCRIPTION: \$2 PER YEAR. THE WORLD OVER.

Advertising rates furnished upon request.



## IN ENGLAND

Only one child in seven who joins a Sunday School remains within the fellowship of the church, states the annual report of the National Sunday School Union and Christian Youth Service. About half the children of compulsory school age in England and Wales attend Sunday school. Although the report describes this as no mean figure, it says the real situation is disturbing. A veritable flood of members between 9 and 14 years of age leave, "losing contact with the vast majority by the time they reach the formative age beginning at early adolescence."—The report adds that "opportunities are being lost . . . The Sunday School is not succeeding.

## ROMAN LOSSES

**THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC**, now published in Sea Cliff, N. Y., carried a recent editorial about Latin American students not following their Roman background, saying:

"This is brought to light in the findings of the Latin American Bishops' Council. (See **The Tablet**, July 13, 1957). According to this report, out of 10,000 Latin American students studying in the U.S. in 1956, only 5 per cent were enrolled in Catholic institutions. —

The Latin American student, accustomed to living under the authoritarian and often despotic rule of the Roman Catholic system, sees for the first time when he comes to America that democracy really exists — he decides in favor of democracy and turns his back on the institutions of his forefathers." —The Churchman.

## GOD AND MAN AT PRINCETON

Sir:

After reading about the Roman Catholic chaplain's attack on the faculty and the policies of Protestant Princeton, I would like to know how the Protestant chaplain at Notre Dame feels about that University's policies and faculty.

James Hood, Calif.

—Time.

casual observation of the daily newspapers and the weekly magazines leads a Catholic to ask, where are the Catholic Salks, Oppenheims, Einsteins?"

"U. S. Catholics, said Cavanaugh, cannot take much comfort in rationalizing that they are a minority group, an immigrant people, usually from modest homes. "At once we reflect that the Jews are an immigrant people very often from modest homes. They must fight bigotry, but the Jews are producing leaders far out of proportion to their numbers.

**"\$0 Out of \$29 Million.** What the Catholics need to do, said Cavanaugh, is not only to strengthen their schools and colleges, but recapture their tradition as intellectual leaders. Unfortunately, the 2,500,000 alumni of Catholic colleges and universities do not seem to be doing much of anything. "I am a member of the board of the Fund for Adult Education of the Ford Foundation. In the last six years we have given away \$29 million . . . Not a single Catholic program of liberal education has, as far as I can remember, received a dime. This has been due, not to bigotry, but to the fact that there has not been one request made which meet the reasonable conditions that the Fund lays down.

"Many of our Catholic alumni scoff at the program of the Great Books Foundation, of the Foundation for Political Education, of any organized group. What do they know about these programs? Are they participating in better programs of liberal education, or are they simply doing nothing at all." (End of verbatim quotation from "Time".)

Recently, the Roman hierarchy voiced the idea that their schools should be considered an integral part of our country's public education system. In the face of the evidence presented by one of their own higher-ups, one wonders whether this suggestion stems from a fatuous self-deception or is merely the natural arrogant presumption of the authoritarian mind.

"Father" Cavanaugh, while forthright and honest in general in his confession of the inadequacy of Catholic education, failed to disclose the more humiliating details.

He stated that, in a group of 303 outstanding scientists whose religious affiliations could be gleaned from their biographical sketches, only 3 were Catholics. The study he quoted showed that these represented only 1/2 of one percent of what might have been expected from their proportion of the population at the time. It was further shown that there were 61 Presbyterians representing 3.5 times their population proportion, 52 Episcopalians representing 5.7 times and 37 Unitarians representing 81.4 times their proportion of the population. The



comment of the authors of the study was, "A comparison of the two extremes, the Unitarians and the Catholics, reveals striking differences. The Unitarian has 1695 chances of becoming distinguished in science to the Roman Catholic's 1 . . . It is important to note that 75% of the outstanding scientists do not claim affiliation with any church." (These are our anchor men.)

In Notre Dame's alumni journal a few years ago, the leading Catholic philosopher, Jacques Maritain, bemoaned the fact that no significant movement for social betterment ever was led by a priest; the leadership always falling to an atheist. Now comes the former President of the institution confessing that Catholic education is incapable of any contribution of consequence toward maintaining our long vaunted preeminence in the field of science.

Will the Jesuits ever learn that modern scientific education is totally alien to the pre-scientific thinking upon which their philosophy is based? Reason, pure and undefiled, therefore, cannot be poured successfully into such completely obsolete molds without contamination.

The Editor offers his thanks to Mr. C. Lockwood of Rochester, Mich., for his letter and to Mr. Frank C. Nickerson of Dallas, Texas, for calling our attention to the "Time" article and supplying copy of Series 1 No. 2 pamphlet issue by "The Liberal".

Subscription to AR now can be placed with the following Freethought magazines:

- "The Freethinker," 41 Grays Inn Rd., London WC 1
- "The Humanist," 28 St. James Place, London SW 1
- "The Rationalist," Box 738F, GPO Melbourne, Australia
- "The New Zealand Rationalist," 315 Victoria Arcade, Shortland St., Auckland, New Zealand
- "Der Freidenker," 51, Lichtendorferstr., Schwerte (Ruhr), Germany
- "Die Freigelstige Aktion," 9, Bruehlstr, Hanover, Germany
- "Fri Tanke," Herrgardsvaegen 24, Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden
- "Indian Rationalist," 36 E. Kutchery Rd., Meerut, India
- "South African Rationalist," 72 Third Ave. Melville, Johannesburg, South Africa
- "Vapaa Ajattelijain Liito, R.Y." Meritullinkata 15 D 44, Helsinki, Suomi, Finland.
- "De Vrijdenker", Postbus 285, Antwerp, Belgium.
- "Freidenker", Arbenzstr. 12, Zuerich 8, Switzerland.

Payment can be made in the currencies of the various countries. Inquire at the above journals of the current rates. Sample copies are available at all addresses; subscription copies are mailed from the United States.

"Nothing so nourishes evil as the inertia of 'good' men."  
—From the Ethical Outlook

## RATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS

### ARIZONA

ARIZONA SECULARISTS, U.S.A., P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, Ariz.

### ARKANSAS

Fayetteville, Ark. or Ben W. Parnell, P.O. Box 179, Baton Rouge 1, La.

### CALIFORNIA

FREETHINKERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Mr. Kolen, 2624 Maple Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

SAN DIEGO FREETHINKERS SOCIETY, 933 9th Ave., San Diego 1. Pres. Frank Erickson; Vice-Pres. Squires Russell; Sec'y-Treas. Julius Switra. Meets every Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

### COLORADO

JEFFERSON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO, Herman O. Schutz, 1351 Washington St., Denver 3, Colo.

### FLORIDA

Contact: Albert S. Brown, Orangedale Route, Green Cove Springs, Fla.

### ILLINOIS

AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION, CHICAGO CHAPTER, 615 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois.

PIONEERS OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT meet second Sunday of month. T. G. Masaryk School, 5701 W. 22nd Place, Cicero, Ill., 8 p.m.

CZECHOSLOVAK CONGREGATION OF FREETHINKERS, 4236 W. Cermak Rd., Chicago 23, Illinois.

CHICAGO CHAPTER CRFA, 4236 W. Cermak Rd., Chicago 23, Ill.

CICERO CHAPTER CRFA, 5701 West 22nd Place, Cicero, Ill.

CZECH RATIONALIST FEDERATION OF AMERICA, 4236 W. Cermak Road, Chicago 23, Ill.

BOHEMIAN FREETHINKERS SCHOOLS OF CHICAGO, 2548 S. Homan Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

NORTH-SIDE RATIONALIST SOCIETY OF CHICAGO. Meets every third Sunday at 7 p.m. at 2251 W. Fullerton. For information write to: 1204 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, Ill.

FREE-THOUGHT SOCIETY OF THE NORTH SIDE OF CHICAGO, Harry Pfeiffer, Sec'y, 2205 N. Lowell Ave., Chicago 39, Ill.

### IOWA

Contact: Dr. George A. Fink, 418 S. Leebink, Burlington, Ia.

### KANSAS

Contact: Carl R. Brown, Stockton, Kans.

### MICHIGAN

Contact: C. Henry Nims, 5725 Woodward, Detroit 2, Mich.

### MINNESOTA

Contact: Wm. P. Schram, Russell, Minn.

## MISSOURI

RATIONALIST SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS,  
2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.  
GERMAN SCHOOL ASS'N AND FREE  
COMMUNITY OF N. ST. LOUIS, INC.,  
2218 St. Louis Ave.  
AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION,  
2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.

## MONTANA

Contact: D. D. Bartholomew, 819 S.  
3rd Ave., Bozeman, Mont.

## NEW YORK

INGERSOLL FORUM meets second  
Friday of month, 8 p.m. at the Pythian,  
70th St., east of Broadway, New York  
City.  
LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, 20  
East 100th St., New York 29, N.Y.  
NEW YORK CZECH RATIONALISTS,  
Frank Hrbek, 4512 Liberty Ave., North  
Bergen, New Jersey.  
RATIONALIST PRESS ASS'N., New York  
Chapter; E. L. Gruber, Hon. Local Sec'y,  
162 West 86th St., N.Y. 24, N.Y.

## OHIO

CLEVELAND CZECH RATIONALISTS,  
Ant. Belsan, 5149 Fowler, Cleveland  
7, Ohio.  
Contact: Chester M. Cadle, Box 5562,  
Cleveland 1, Ohio.

## OKLAHOMA

Contact Joel Johnson, 5336 East 30th  
Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## OREGON

Contact: Al Riehl, 3956 No. Longview  
Ave., Portland 12, Ore.

## PENNSYLVANIA

FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE, 5233 N.  
Fifth St., Philadelphia 20, Pa.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES

Contact: Richard O. Pitner, 1223 Vic-  
toria Way, Salt Lake City 16, Utah.

## SOUTHERN STATES

Contact: J. W. Dadisman — RFD 7,

## TEXAS

CONGREGATION OF CZECH RATION-  
ALISTS, 309½ E. 29th St., Houston,  
Texas.

Contact: Charles M. Albrecht, 202 E.  
May St., Yoakum, Tex.

## WASHINGTON

Contact: Mrs. Alma Otto, P.O. Box  
183, Coupeville, Wash.

## WISCONSIN

FREIE GEMEINDE, Jefferson Hall, 2617  
W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee 6,  
Wisconsin.

JEFFERSON FREETHOUGHT SOCIETY,  
2618 West Fond du Lac Ave., Mil-  
waukee 6, Wisconsin.

## CANADA

Freethinkers interested in forming a  
Canadian Rationalist Society, please  
write to: Organizing Committee ARF,  
2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.,  
USA.

# “

## quotus

*from the Freethought publications of the world*

from THE HUMANIST (England):

If man is really free, he can do as he chooses and God can do nothing about it. If God can intervene, man's will is not free. It is merely permitted. A very different matter . . . If we take a look at God—that is, the conception or idea of God—of the Christian scheme, the one with which we are familiar, we are immediately confronted with a God all too manifestly made by man as a self-glorification of his own image.

from THE LIBERAL:

It might be thought that God is as good a word as any other to sum up unexplained causes, but its history is now such that, with its constantly changing meanings, it is practically useless in any precise use of language.

from THE INDIAN RATIONALIST:

No one can be rational without being honest. Ultimately Rationalism merges into morality. To be rational is to be moral.

from THE RIPS AW:

There is no other group that has been so consistently proved wrong than the clergy.

from THE SECULARIST:

If we do not guard and defend our freedoms, we will lose them. We must be ever on the alert. We must make some sacrifices now, if we are to retain the freedoms that the founders of this country won for us and paid for in blood and great hardship. Let us not lose them thru indifference.

from THE AGE OF REASON:

A greater sense of honesty will be inculcated in the mind of a child who is taught morality without religion, than the child who is taught religion without morality.

from THE RATIONALIST REPORTER:

As long as there are those who, like Rationalists, gather to discuss matters worthier than those dealing with the latest prices of commodities or gilt-edge securities, there is hope for the future!

from LA VOZ DE JUAREZ:

Confession is a diabolical, humiliating, slavish act, initiated by the clergy for its own advantage.

## Rainex Vs. Radar?

Vatican City Latinists bemoan that Latin is continuously being pushed to the rear. They claim Latin is by no means dead and their scholars keep adding modern terms. Sample:—Radio-electricum instrumentum exploratorium (radar).  
—Radio Electronics



## THE WIDE, WIDE MOVEMENT

*All organizations are urged to send in their news, programs, activities, elections, socials, past or future, and pictures of meetings, officers or members, or anything of interest to Rationalists.*

The most important events recently have been the recognition of several new organizations in the movement. The NORTH-SIDE RATIONALISTS of Chicago have formally requested affiliation with the AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION. This entirely new group elected Victor Kruse as president at their first official meeting and established a bank account and a forward program. Other officers are: Rudy Marchfield, Vice-President; Jim Buch, Financial Secretary; Robert G. Gaston, Secretary-Treasurer; Albert Hirsch, Trustee; and two Executive Board members, C. G. Snyder and Dr. George Mueller. All Rationalists in Chicago's North side are asked to contact Mr. Victor Kruse, North-Side Rationalists, P.O. Box 7709, Chicago 80, Illinois.

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE RATIONALIST PRESS ASSOCIATION was established late last year at a meeting in the Henry George School of Social Science in New York City. The RPA, of England, is an old organization which publishes excellent books. Its president is Bertrand Russell. The new chapter is the only organized group of this association in the United States. The new group placed advertisements in the *Saturday Review*, *Sunday Times* and *The Nation*, which brought inquiries from 28 states. The group publishes a news bulletin *The Rationalist Reporter*, the first issue was January, 1958. Free literature and information concerning the RPA may be obtained from the local secretary, E. L. Gruber, 162 West 86th Street, New York 24, N.Y.

Another group to join the AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION is the long-established SAN DIEGO FREETHINKERS SOCIETY which approved a new constitution, elected officers and continue their weekly meetings on Sunday evenings.

JOSEPH LEWIS delivered an address over radio station WMIE, Miami, Florida that was an answer to those who favor "Moral and Spiritual Values in the Public School." Pulling no punches, Lewis, president of the FREETHINKERS OF AMERICA took up illustrations by a board of education member that the teacher who uses the Bible story of Lot is not fit to teach children.

Lewis said the story might well be classified as "Glorified Perversity." He also said the story of the sacrifice by Abraham of his son Isaac is too monstrous for words. He denied the Bible and Christianity to be a foundation of our government. Among many other subjects he said: "It has been our contention for years, that the instilling of religious beliefs in the minds of young and immature children intensifies the hatred and bigotry that must inevitably follow such teachings. The parent who instills religious prejudices in the mind of his child, not only poisons his mentality with the virus of an implacable hatred, but is guilty of a moral crime for which there is no expiation. Our public schools should be used to eradicate, not intensify, religious prejudice . . . What an injustice it is, then, to impose upon the mind of a child speculative philosophy when the most astute adult minds are baffled by it. Religion belongs in the field of speculative philosophy, and I challenge anyone to disprove the statement that there exists, today, a single system of religion, that has for its basis anything other than speculation. Mental honesty is, above all its attributes, the greatest virtue of the mind." Lewis gave the facts of the test by Professor P. R. Hightower of Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, who after examining more than 3,300 children found that students of the Bible were less honest, and that the "mere knowledge of the Bible itself is not sufficient to insure the proper character attitudes." The text of the radio talk is printed in the January issue of *The Age of Reason*.

In Chicago, THE PIONEERS OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT heard Anthony Kvasnicka in a talk on Geology, at the January meeting. In other meetings Robert A. Anderson talked on the inconsistencies and contradictions in the Bible, and several films were shown. In April, Pat Dunn will show a film *In the Beginning*, a visual explanation of the beginnings of our earth. In May, Arthur B. Hewson will talk on Rationalism and in June Harry Pfeiffer of the Free-Thought Society of the North Side of Chicago will talk on Freethought in American Life. A motion was made at the January meeting that efforts be made to call a meeting of all organizations in the Chicago area to discuss mutual problems and discussion of practical means to further help the Rationalist cause in Chicago. The first meeting took place February 16th, at the Jan Hus Hall.

The FREE-THOUGHT SOCIETY OF THE NORTH SIDE OF CHICAGO (formerly the Freisinnige Gemeinde) heard Irving Abrams, attorney, lecture on the *Search for Freedom in Modern Times*. Paul Stettner gave a film lecture on the Canadian Rockies. In April Ludwig



Schweitzer will give a film-lecture. New officers elected were Joe Braun, President; Herman Burgard, VicePresident; Harry Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary; Ludwig Schweitzer, Financial Secretary, and Henry Lohens, Treasurer. Meetings are held the last Sunday of each month, at 2 p.m., at Shall's Hall, 1602 No. Central Park Ave., corner of North Avenue. Five new members were admitted.

The Annual Yuletide-New Year's Celebration of the RATIONALIST SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS was a big success. Called an "Unholy Italian Nightmare" in the fancy announcements, the evening included games, a penance and indulgence game, and the "election" of a pope, in the usual Italian undemocratic manner. Eugene Hoffman was the Pope decorated in a white crepe paper robe and striking bishop-looking hat. A "human bingo" game and two balloon games kept the members busy. A spaghetti dinner was served by the women and Walter Hoops carried on his annual "French Auction" with many unusual items. The entire proceeds of the evening were donated to the **American Rationalist** magazine, totaling \$38.73. Other groups who want to do the same should write to the secretary of the Society for information about games, the announcement and other information. St. Louisans hope others will take notice and give benefit programs. In January the Society presented a well-known St. Louisan, attorney, world traveler and author of 20 books, Lee Meriwether, who talked on **Why I am an Atheist**. Both St. Louis newspapers gave a short news item of the meeting (one couldn't print the item until it verified the title with Mr. Meriwether) and ads were placed in both dailies. One of the largest attendances, resulted from this publicity, including one newspaper reporter, with inquiries later by mail from interested persons who could not attend. Mr. Meriwether, who is 95 years old, spoke for an hour without notes and clearly gave his reasons for his beliefs, or unbeliefs. He talked about his association with Clarence Darrow and other well known persons. He was an assistant to the Ambassador to France, State Labor Commissioner, a special agent for the U. S. Bureau of Labor, and was twice a candidate for mayor of St. Louis. He recently stepped out of the presidency of the Mark Twain Society to "allow a younger member to take office." The St. Louis Globe-Democrat recently had a full page story on the interesting life of Lee Meriwether, who met Mark Twain while he was writing Tom Sawyer. The Globe said that a former mayor called him the "Indestructible Man." Tape recordings were made of his talk.

The 221st birthday of Thomas Paine was celebrated on January 29th by the **THOMAS PAINE NATIONAL HISTORICAL ASS'N**, at

the **Paine Memorial Building** in New Rochelle, New York. The program included Francis Pelly, M.B.E., Her Majesty's Consul in New York, with **A Message from the British Government**, and a talk by the City Historian of New Rochelle, Thomas Hootor, speaking on **Paine's Contribution the Cause of Freedom as Viewed by the current Paine Author**, Thomas Del Vecchio. Refreshments were served.

The **LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**, of New York City, held a Thomas Paine Memorial Banquet on January 29th.

The **THOMAS PAINE FOUNDATION** held a 221st anniversary dinner on January 29th in Miami, Florida. Joseph Lewis delivered an address **Thomas Paine and the American Revolution**.

THE **TWIN CITY SECULARISTS** heard Merrill R. Holste talk on **How and Why an Important Religion was Manufactured** at the Minneapolis Labor Temple. Russell B. Adams talked on **What I Saw in Russia During the World Festival 1957**. Adams was one of the students who made the trip to Russia last summer.

**GEORGE E. O'DELL**, editor of the **Ethical Outlook** of the American Ethical Union, died at the age of 83. He was a devoted secretary of the Union for many years and was Associate Leader of the New York Society, serving as week-end minister in some Unitarian churches. He was born in England, was assistant to Dr. Stanton Coit, Leader of the West London Ethical Society and came to the United States in 1913 on a lecture tour. In 1947 he returned to England and continued to contribute articles for the **Ethical** publication.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Cejka of Chicago spent a week-end in St. Louis for conferences concerning the **American Rationalist** magazine. The St. Louis office received a Christmas card from Dave Shipper, Foreign Correspondent for AR, with greetings in the Welsh language. Dave announced his engagement to Anne-Adele Borman of Glasgow, Scotland. Wedding will be in Spring.

**ARIZONA SECULARISTS** cooperated in forming a local chapter of POAU and has received a charter.

The **RICHMOND SECULAR CLUB** heard a talk by Dr. K. K. Waering of Burkeville, Virginia. He denounced Billy Graham as Public Enemy No. 1. Meetings are held once every three months. Freethinkers in Virginia and general area should contact Dewey Collett, Box 11, 1415 Chamberlayne Avenue, Richmond 22, Virginia.

Hugh Robert Orr, editor of **Progressive World** addressed the **FREETHINKERS OF SOUTHERN**

CALIFORNIA on the subject **Freethought in This Age of Conformity**.

Freethinkers in Albany, New York and the surrounding area interested in organizing should contact John A. English, 286 Third Avenue, Troy, New York.

Federal aid to education will be one of the issues discussed at the National Workshop for Religious Liberals to be held in Washington, March 10th to 12th by the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice. Discussants will be Senator Paul Douglas, Senator Joseph Clark, Senator Richard Neuberger and others. Headquarters will be All Souls Church and all Unitarians, Quakers, members of Ethical Culture Societies and other religious liberals are invited.

The FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE of Philadelphia held its annual Thomas Paine Dinner on February 2nd. Their publication **The Liberal** is in its 12th year. Indebtedness on the Paine Center has been reduced to \$1820. At the annual meeting K. M. Whitten was reelected president. Death took their member, Joseph Fischer, 54 years old, a faithful worker and devoted to the cause.

The NATIONAL SECULAR SOCIETY of England has been embarrassing Christians on the subject of blood sports (fox hunting) which the N.S.S. opposes. The president of the Royal Soc. for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is also Master of Foxhounds of Pembrokeshire Hunt! The R.S.P.C.A. sees nothing inconsistent in this and claims that is the only method of controlling the fox. The League Against Cruel Sports disagrees. Of course the RSPCA. is a Royal Society and their patron, Queen Elizabeth, is an apparent admirer of the "sport," understandably but a trifle hypocritical. NSS. member O. C. Drewitt lectured to a packed audience in London on **My Years as a Monk** and dealt very capably with questions. Mr. Drewitt is a former friar. Colin McCall, General Secretary of NSS. lectured to the Orpington (Surrey) Humanist Group on **A Secularist Looks at Humanism**. Late last year W. A. Gethin, O.B.E., B.Sc., spoke on **Esperanto, The International Language**. One of the NSS. outdoor platform lecturers is Len Ebury who has been lecturing for about thirty years, a wonderful record of service to the British Freethought movement. Mr. Ebury has a magnificent library of bound volumes of 19th century Freethought journals including the first year bound volume of **THE FREETHINKER** of 1881. The NSS. sponsored a public discussion on **Christianity or Scientific Humanism?** at Stratford Town Hall. Speaking for Christianity was Dr. Donald MacKay, Research Physicist at King's College, in

London, and he was opposed by Dr. Margaret Knight, lecturer in modern Psychology at Aberdeen University.

The **American Rationalist** is now on sale in Britain at meetings of the Leicester Secular Society, Manchester Humanist Fellowship, Bristol Rationalist Group and Wales and Western branch, NSS. It is also on sale at the **Freethinker** stand outside Hyde Park. AR is reaching a world readership. Some of the recent subscribers are from Fiji, Tonga, Western Australia, Ontario, Quebec, Nigeria, Belgium, and many more.

**Vapaa Ajattelyä**, (Free Thinker) of Helsinki, Finland, printed the article in the **American Rationalist** by Ira D. Cardiff, **Juvenile Delinquency**. The Finnish magazine is in its 14th year of publication and is a credit to the Finnish movement.

French Freethought leader Andre Lorulot spoke over the French National Radio Service. He is responsible for the production of the monthly **La Calotte** (The Skull-Cap), five franc's worth of militant anti-clericalism, the paper **La Raison**, (Libre Pensee), and the magazine **L'Idee Libre**, (The Free Idea).

The Polish Freethought journal **Glos Wolnych**, published by the Polish Freethinkers of Bydgoszcz devoted a large section to pictures of six Freethought magazines. Among the American magazines were the **American Rationalist** and **The Liberal**. The first all-Poland conference of the Association of Atheists and Freethinkers was held at which an ideological platform of the association was discussed and the need for a decisive fight for full tolerance was stressed. There were 41 members elected to the central executive committee.

A French-Canadian Freethinker would like to contact others in Canada: Robert Hudon, P. O. Box 722, Val D'Or, Quebec, Canada.

**The Indian Rationalist**, a very fine publication, reports severe financial troubles. India certainly needs this active group and it would be a major set-back if it failed. Readers who would like to subscribe or make donations to help our Indian partners, write to the editor, Professor R. S. Yadava, 36 Eastern Kutichery Road, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India. In Madras, the former editor, S. Ramanathan held a discussion with Dr. J. T. Cornelius on the subject **Out-casting the Caste-System**.

A former lecturer in South Africa's Witwatersrand University, Malcolm G. Clark, is a schoolmaster in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia. He was invited to give a 40 minute talk on **Rationalism to Form VI pupils in the Religious Knowledge period**. Clark is a **Freethinker** and **AR** reader.

In Wales, the WALES AND WESTERN branch of the NSS. combine the Cardiff Humanist Group to present a "Brain's Trust." Dave Shipper and Harold Day represented the non-religious side. Dr. E. S. Miller of the Cardiff Ba'hai Group; Mr. O. Willetts, Order of Christian Witness; Sheikh Hassan, Iman of the Cardiff Mosque, represented the opposition. The branch has two American members.

The PORTSMOUTH Branch, NSS. held a Discussion on **Christian Intolerance**. Speakers were Rev. B. Thomas, M.A. (Church of England), Canon Lyndsay (Roman Catholic) and P. G. Young, and P. Potheary of the NSS.

Guest speakers of the Nottingham University Union Debating Society were Mr. Tom Mosley, Vice-Pres. of NSS. and Edmund Taylor who proposed **This House will Beware of the Papal Bull**. They were opposed by Miss Erika Fallaux of the Catholic Evidence Guild and another religious speaker. On another debate for the same organization Dr. Margaret Knight debated the subject: **That Religion is an Obstacle to Clear Thinking**.

The German paper **Der Freidenker** reports the death of Fritz Böhm at the age of 70. Herr Böhm was an active Freethinker as long ago as 1922.

Those who can read German may wish to subscribe to some of the many German Freethought publications. Write to **Die Freigeistige Aktion** (published by the VERLAG FÜR GEISTES-FREIHEIT), Hannover, Brühlstr. 9, West Germany; for the monthly **Monatsschau** write to Curt Ganswindt, Freigeistige Gemeinschaft, Berlin-Steglitz, Lauenburgerstr. 16. **Der Freidenker**, a monthly organ of the German Freethought Association, is issued by H. Freistuhler, Schwerte-Ruhr, Lichtendorferstr. 51.

### COMBINATION \$1.00 OFFER

POPE JOAN, by Chris Olson	.15
BY THEIR FRUITS, by Ira D. Cardiff	.15
WHY I DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD, by Arthur G. Cromwell	.20
SCIENCE AND SUPERNATURALISM, by Anton J. Carlson	.35
60 stickers with Freethought slogans, printed in two colors	.35

**\$1.20 Value for \$1.00**

**RATIONALIST PUBLICATIONS**

2218 St. Louis Avenue St. Louis 6, Mo.

## SLOGAN CONTEST

Many of our readers have responded to the call for short, pithy slogans to counteract the government-inspired "Pray for Peace" and "In God We Trust" absurdities.

We print the entrees and ask our readers to let us know their first, second and third choices. We intend to print labels with the winning slogans. For those who prefer rubber stamps we can supply them too, rubber stamps can be furnished for any slogan on the list. The price for a two-line stamp is \$1.00; for a three-liner \$1.25.

Prize winners will be published in the following issue of AR and awards presented according to the rules of the contest.

\* \* \*

Apropos "Pray for Peace":  
Work for Peace

Defense - Yes; War - No

Poverty Breeds Crime and War

ACT for Peace  
Praying won't get it

Pay for Peace

Don't Pray for Peace. Get it as intelligent and mature human beings get other things for our benefit: Work for it.

To Pray for Peace is useless.  
Humanity alone is man's hope.  
Don't expect a god to do your work.

To Pray for Peace is to place yourself on the low level of the savage and the witch doctor.

You pray for Peace  
But wars increase.  
No god can bar  
A human war.  
United man  
Forever can.

There is no separation of state and church when the government propagandizes for religion by printing prayer-stamps and cancellation marks commanding the public to perform religious acts.

For thousands of years, the more humanity has prayed for Peace, the more wars have increased. The hope of the race is not in a god who never was but in HUMANITY.

Prayers for Peace are a shameful waste of time.  
Thousands of years of history prove this true.  
Peace, like war, is man-made. YOU are man.

You pray for Peace,  
But wars increase.  
No God can bar  
A human war.  
Man Can.

A misprint? In Gold we trust?

Why trust a God. It's better to know.

No trust in God will do  
when man won't act.

When man neglects to act  
No trust in God will help

In God we trust . . .  
Then hope turns to dust.

In God we trust  
the savage said.  
In Reason we trust  
The wise man said.  
Is yours a wise  
or savage head?

In God we trust  
a slogan old.  
Has caused the race  
Distress untold.

In God we trust, if endorsed by Fort Knox.

In God we trust.  
Result: Disgust.

On coins and stamps "In God We Trust"—  
To fool little children it is a must.  
But if we had no men to fight,  
No army, navy, airplane might,  
We'd trust old Jehovah and Mary hail  
As far as we could throw a bull by the tail.

Our forefathers placed their trust  
in the Constitution.  
In myself I trust  
In God we trust — What crust!

In God trust—who grovel in the dust

In God to trust  
a monkish must

In Gold we trust.

In Knowledge be our trust.

In man's wisdom our trust.

A belief is an expression of ignorance.

It may be fun to be fooled,  
But safer to know.

In God we trust  
and waste our time.  
No God is worth  
a leaden dime.

## IN MEMORIAM

One of the first contributors and subscribers to the American Rationalist magazine was Arthur Proffit, a member of the Rationalist Society of St. Louis, who lived in Springfield, Missouri. Mr. Proffit died of heart failure on January 7th, 1958, and was buried in the National Cemetery at Springfield after Unitarian Services. He was a member of the Unitarian Fellowship of Springfield, and was 71 years old, a veteran of World War I. He collapsed on returning from town with medicine for a neighbor.

Mr. Proffit had a quiet, humble way about him. He was always digging into books and encouraging others to study, observe, think and reason. As a retired farmer he spent much of the past few years reading. He drove to St. Louis several times to attend meetings of the Rationalist Society of St. Louis.

---

Enjoy yourself  
Improve yourself —  
Help others.

Knowledge is Power

In Man we trust

In God we trust  
If we are fools.

Our Constitution puts its  
trust in "We, the People".

In Reason we trust.

In God we trust,  
The preachers shout.  
But they live best  
Who live in doubt.

In God we trust is simple hoke,  
For if we did we'd soon go broke.

In God we trust and Pray for Peace  
is not for wise men but for fools.  
And U.S. stamps ought never be  
religious propagandist's tools.

God we trust . . .  
All other pay cash.

Trust in God  
and the 5th Amendment.

## WE NEED AN HONEST RELIGION

by John L. Talbott

Just men desire justice and abhor injustice. Just men also desire to know what is true and despise falsehood. The first principle of peaceful society is a universal desire for justice and truth.

Justice must imply that every child born in our country have every advantage that any other child enjoys. The problem for each citizen to consider is: "We have an earth from which all the necessities of life are obtainable, and a human family. How can we use the earth to the best advantage of the entire citizenry?" Not the greatest good to the greatest number, but the greatest good to every citizen.

The earth was not created by man. It is Nature's gift to all mankind, and morally belongs to the newborn child as much as to the title holder. If any man does not want justice and strive to attain justice, he is immoral and unjust, no difference what religion he espouses nor how sanctimonious he may pretend to be. Most religionists pretend to desire the universal brotherhood of all mankind. If all religionists were sincere in their avowal and were reasonable beings, they would all agree. There would not be a dozen different religions, such as Christian, Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, etc. There would not be two hundred sixty different creeds among the so-called Christians.

### The Dishonesty of the Clergy

The Bible was written by men (every word of it). Yet, the clergy call it the "word of God." They know that God never wrote a word of it. When confronted with this fact, they fall back on the claim that the writers were inspired. No man can know that another man is inspired. Neither can any man know that he is inspired. He gets an idea into his head and writes it on paper—or parchment. He may not even

claim that he is inspired, but in order to make others believe that there is no doubt of the truth of the writing, they (the clergy) proclaim, "The writer was inspired by Almighty God."

The one thing that should convince any one (with normal reasoning faculties) that any religion may be questioned is the diversity of belief among the different religious denominations. The only thing apparently, that keeps the people of India from uniting and working for self-government, is their different religions. To a rational being, there is no sense in either religion. The Catholics and Protestants are at daggers' point. The Catholics simply refuse to discuss the question of the correctness of their dogmas.

The custom of religionists praying is so ridiculous that it should be revolting to any reasonable being. Persons who pray to a God must have a very poor opinion of their God. They either think that he is so unconcerned about the well-being of human beings, that he must be begged to act decently, or that he is not cognizant of his duty and they desire to advise him so that he will remember to act decently. This belief in an eternal being that never had a beginning and will never cease to exist causes people to accept ideas that are devoid of reason.

The Christian Scientist believes he can induce God to interfere with cause and effect. I have a newspaper clipping, stating that a woman in Kansas City, Missouri, refused to have a physician for her child when he had infantile paralysis. She had her co-religionist come on the front porch and pray. (The house was quarantined and they were not allowed in the house). The child died. Now, any rational person would have a very poor opinion of a God that would let a child die if he could save him. Such people refuse to use their reasoning faculties.

The Russellites refuse to even try to improve social conditions. They are expecting a dead Jesus to change human conduct and establish a just government for us. They ignore the fact that social conditions are the



result of human conduct. If social conditions are improved, it must be through human action.

I could go on pointing out the absurdities of different church creeds. Such as the Hindu's refusal to kill rats, on the silly belief that God created all animals, and that it is a sin to destroy what God has created. They allow rats to kill chickens and attack children and carry disease germs.

The ultra-religious will say that "God had his own reason for causing a war," or "for sending a tornado." When a tornado struck St. Louis and caused great loss of property and some lives, Archbishop Glennon was quoted in the St. Louis papers as saying, "God permitted it." One can only conclude that for one to believe that there is a being that controls human conduct, may completely destroy their ability to reason.

#### Why I Refuse To Believe In Supernaturalism

I had been told there had to be a creator, that the earth, sun and moon had been created. One day, it occurred to me to inquire, "Who created the creator?" I was told he always existed. Then I began to contemplate how many sextillions of years God had existed before he created the universe. No difference at what period in duration, the creation occurred, this creator had been in existence untold trillions of centuries prior to the creation.

I read physical geography and Steel's *Fourteen Weeks in Philosophy*. I learned that all matter attracts all other matter. The theory was advanced that the earth might have been thrown off the sun and explained natural forces that would have caused the earth to find and continue in its orbit. I learned of the force of gravity, that perpendicular lines all point to a common center and are not parallel; that a level line curves; that if a level line were followed far enough, one would go around the earth and might travel in a straight line and reach the point from where he started.

I concluded that something must be eternal; something always existed. I had to

choose between the idea of the eternity of matter and the eternity of a Creator. I concluded that even a God could not make something out of nothing, so I accepted the theory of the eternity of matter.

I realized that there are natural forces, such as gravity, electricity, expansion and contraction of air and water and realized that these forces are constantly affecting matter, causing changes.

When I realize the evil in most all countries and realize that the countries are controlled by religionists and know that all religionists believe in supernaturalism, I can only conclude that the belief in supernaturalism is a detriment to the human race, and that justice and peace on earth will never prevail while people are gullible enough to accept a belief in supernaturalism and consciousness after death.

## THE OLD SHELL GAME!

by Arthur G. Cromwell

Persistent attempts are ever being made by the Roman Catholic hierarchy to destroy, or break through our Constitutional law of the Separation of state and church. The novel idea that the Roman church can be aided by American tax money is in that money can be paid to parents of children attending their church schools. These payments by the government would be made in the form of "certificates" or "vouchers", and in turn given over to the church school by the parents as "tuition". The old worn out argument in behalf of this idea is that "Catholics are double-taxed", that is, taxed for support of the constituted public schools, and taxed by their church for support of the privately owned and controlled church schools. Of course, this argument is baseless. Many more people pay school taxes who have no children going to school than those who have children attending. Also, the public school system is established for, and fully competent, to care for and educate EVERY American child regardless of race, color or creed. The true understanding of

Democracy is born and bred in our public schools. For any law to be made, or any scheme to be exercised that would compel all American taxpayers to support church and/or private schools would not only place a great added financial burden upon the taxpayer, but aid the church and private schools to supplant the public schools by unfair competition. The U. S. Supreme Court has in the *Everson*, *McCullum* and *Zorach* cases ruled that the government may not aid one religion or all religions in any manner, no matter under what guise or form it may be suggested.

A weather eye must be kept on this new Catholic scheme, or we may find ourselves supporting a school system that teaches a philosophy alien to all our American traditions and ideals.

## THE CONGRESS OF THE WORLD UNION OF FREETHINKERS

The 32nd Congress took place in Paris, September 6th to 10th, at the Salle Saulnier. Only a few comments can be given on several days of conferences. Readers of AR are referred to the May, 1957 issue for a background of the Union.

Two resolutions adopted should be mentioned. The one on Concordats re-affirmed the position already taken on the separation of church and state. The Union is opposed to all Concordats and attention was invited to certain clauses of the Concordat between General Franco and Pius XII by which the state undertakes to forbid public expression of religious and political opinions other than those of the Roman Catholic Church. Such clauses are in complete opposition to the Charter of the United Nations which stipulates the principle of religious and political liberty. The resolution on overpopulation recognized that overpopulation is one of the most serious problems facing our generation. For many human beings it is a cause of misery, illness, stagnation and a contributing factor to war. The Union favored a policy of providing assistance to underdeveloped countries supplemented by a policy of reduction of the number of births where conditions require it.

In other actions the Union re-instated the Austrian Federation and accepted the resignation of the National Liberal League in the United States. The American Rationalist Fed-

eration was unanimously accepted as an affiliated federation of the Union.

All members of the General Committee were re-elected with two exceptions, J. De Ronde was replaced by Colin McCall. Mr. De Ronde served more than 20 years. Mr. Smith of New York was not re-elected.

The fee of the Union was established at 1.50 Belgian Francs per annum per member.

The address of the president included reading of the deaths of prominent members during the previous two years: Prosper Alfarié and Edouard Herriot in France, Joseph McCabe, Sir Sheldon Dudley and Lord Horder in England, C. Silvestri in Italy, Professors Aaltonen and Ruutu in Finland and Prof. G. Murray in Australia. In his conclusion, the president said:

"In this new world where the very conditions of survival have become different from anything known to, or imaginable by, our ancestors, complete freedom to think independently of their faiths and prejudices is essential to our continuing existence. Never before has any generation, like ours, held veto power on the future evolution of the human race. In order to deal successfully with world problems, we must first free ourselves of the prejudices inherent in each of our cultures and systems of faith, and then learn to feel, think, and act as citizens of the world."

In the new By-Laws adopted it was made clear that membership in the World Union of Freethinkers "is made up of all the groups, associations and federations of Freethinkers and of isolated Freethinkers in the countries and regions where there is no organization, who adhere to the fundamental principles of Free-thought, undertake to live in conformity with those principles, to propagate, extol and defend them in all circumstances."

Two other sections of the By-Laws will indicate more about the Union.

### B. Principles, Claims and Objectives.

Free-Thought is based on the principles of Free-Examination, of liberating Reason, of pacific and constructive Science, and of the philosophy of Free Search for Truth. Free-Thought proclaims its character of being secular, democratic, for progress and for social emancipation. Free-Thought is not under the dependency of any political party, or of any state system; it claims complete independence of them.

Free-Thought is based on the principles of without distinction of sex, race, class, the right to live, to Justice, to liberty of thought, to liberty of conscience, to an ethical culture of his or her own choice; the right to conceive, to express, to expose, to practice and to defend in all freedom his or her opinions and be-

liefs, freely chosen, which do not tend to destroy Mankind or the individual nor tend to deny Liberty.

Free-Thought does not accept any religious, political, social or national dogma. It opposes supremacy or ascendancy of a human community, of a political or social system, of a faith, or of an individual over the others. It rejects and fights every coercion imposed on individuals, groups, communities, or nations, in all fields of thought, and it claims for each the right to choose and to practice its own way of living, respectful of human life and of human person.

Consequently Free-Thought fights for Liberty and Democracy, for the intellectual, cultural and moral advances of Mankind and for the well-being and peace of individuals and human communities.

#### C. Aim of the Union.

The aim of the World Union of Freethinkers is to gather all Free-Thinkers and their organizations, to assemble them for the fight for their ideals, for the propagation of their principles and for the defense of their rights and interests and for the triumph of their claims; to unite them within a world organization the objective of which is to back them, to help them, to consult them, to advise them, and to create, between the Free-Thinkers, their organizations, their friends and sympathizers, strong bonds of friendship, solidarity and fraternity.

### ATTENTION

Young adults, men and women, would you like to meet other interesting men and women to discuss music, politics or the weather?

The NRS of Chicago is sponsoring a social program of lectures, dances, banquets, hobby groups and other social affairs. Club membership is open to all sincere young adults, men and women interested in meeting and joining each other in social activities.

The NRS SOCIAL CLUB is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization, created to bring people of various age levels and of similar interests together.

For more information write: Rudy Marchfield, NRS Social Club, 1204 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, Illinois or to Robert G. Gaston, NRS Social Club, P.O. Box 7709, Chicago 80, Illinois.

A poll was taken in Hollywood whether too many adjectives were used in advertising movies. 5% were of the opinion that too many adjectives were used, another 5% did not think so. 90% answered: What are adjectives?

### THE TRUTH SEEKER

His special talents fit him for  
The day-in-day out, lonely search  
For truth, His stark monastic vow  
Has roots in neither cult nor church.

Unmoved by virulence and scorn,  
He probes with devastating skill  
The innate forces, good and bad,  
That motivate the human will,

He walks a dedicated way,  
And counts his work sufficient pay.

—Dorothy B. Winn.

### FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN INCREASINGLY SHARE IN THE MANY RICHES OF THIS AGE !

We live in a world filled with the most remarkable technical and natural riches. Yet, unless we possess **creative skills** with which to resourcefully utilize these riches — for developing our physical, intellectual, spiritual or purposeful, and economic well-being — their vast potential good remains largely unused by us . . . it is wasted.

Since with **creative skills** we can make these riches increasingly useful, then, in importance, **creative skillfulness** ranks above all other riches. It is truly the most valuable individual possession because, with its use, we can fill our lives daily with more meaningful, more beautiful, and more satisfying things . . . we can improve upon every aspect of living, and even create **more** riches. Creative **skillfulness** is therefore the **KEY** to abundant, joyous, economically self-dependent living.

You can **FIND OUT HOW** to become **CREATIVELY SKILLFUL**, how to proceed to convert the vast unused wealth into active benefits and thus share in the world's unlimited riches.

The procedure for developing **creative skills** is based upon practical, time-tested principles. The sequential steps of this remarkably effective procedure are made clear and ready for daily use in the publication **WINGS FOR RICHER LIVING** — a reliable guide to **creative skillfulness** in every aspect of living. **SPECIAL OFFER.**

Send \$1.00 for 7 issues of "WINGS" to

### GUIDE PUBLISHING

Room 737, 53 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago 4, Illinois

## DON'T TAKE CHANCES!

WATFORD, England (AP) — Want to make sure of getting into heaven? Sir Miles Thomas, deputy chairman of the British Productivity Council, told how Thursday night.

"The scene is outside the pearly gates," Thomas told a public meeting on ways to increase industrial output. "There is a long queue. — Toward the head of the queue there is a considerable sprinkling of bishops. But progress is slow.

"The examination of each individual is severe until suddenly there appears a rather nice-looking girl of less than twenty. She is ushered to the head of the queue and strides gaily through the gates.

"The bishops expostulate. They have been queueing a long time, with patience. But this is too much. They have asked for no special treatment, they tell St. Peter, but what has this young girl got which they have not?

"St. Peter replies: 'We move with the times. Things are now assessed in terms of productivity. This girl was young. For the past six months she has owned a sports car.

"'And in those six months she has put the fear of God into more people than you, my lords, have done in a lifetime.' "

—Chicago Sun-Times

### NEW PAMPHLET!

#### What Does Freedom of Religion Mean?

by SONJA BIERSTED  
25c (15 pages)

R.D. 2, Box 421, Birdsboro, Pa.

### Read the LIBERAL

A 24 page monthly journal of the Friendship Liberal League, devoted to freethought, rationalism and topics of general interest to freethinkers.

The F.L.L. is a Member of the American Rationalist Federation.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR,  
FOREIGN, \$1.25

FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE, Inc.  
5526 Westford Rd.  
Philadelphia 20, Pa.

## BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND

by IRA D. CARDIFF

Hysteria, verging upon insanity, obsesses our nation today. The individuals holding highest place in the federal government pose as devout Christians, apparently placing allegiance to this cult above their duty to their country. They constantly talk peace and pray for peace, yet their every act is toward war—preparation for war. (They designate their actions as defense, though there is not a nation on earth which has the remotest intention of attacking us or desire to attack us.) Sincere efforts of the best citizens in behalf of peace incur the wrath of officials of our police state, who charge peace-loving people with "subversive" activities, at times actually placing these good citizens under arrest. At the same time, our one-party press conducts a publicity campaign calculated to terrorize and intimidate anyone who takes a firm stand for, not only his natural rights, but the rights guaranteed him under the Constitution. Upright, law-abiding citizens are found guilty in trials which are a travesty on justice. In such trials the pious officials of our gestapo hesitate not a moment to use perjured testimony to secure a conviction, then scream "communism" when their decisions are reversed by higher courts. Canada's former Foreign Secretary, Lester Pearson, when accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, 12/11/57, said, "The grim fact, however, is that we prepare for war like precocious giants and for peace like retarded pygmies," which emphasizes the fact that a cold war also may be "Hell."

It is doubtful if the people generally have ever before been in such an hysterical state during the entire 182 years of the nation's existence, yet a subsidized press daily publishes the pious platitudes of clergy and high federal officials to the effect that a god is guiding our our destiny and if only our affairs are placed in its hands, all will be well. On the next page, the same "newspaper" will emphasize and advertise its hypocrisy by telling us how the people are flocking to Jesus, placing all of their faith in a god who will protect us in all events — though it will be necessary for the people to expend 40 or 50,000,000,000 dollars per year for armament to aid God in his "all powerful" efforts, all of which reminds us of a statement of the great Roman senator, Seneca, that "Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by the rulers as useful."

Each year we waste many billions upon the fakes and follies of Christianity. This is not all: we consume

enormous amounts of time and energy chasing its phantoms and fooling ourselves. Even so, society might afford all of this waste without too serious effects if the loss ended here, but it does not. It has only commenced. The great loss, **the tremendous waste**, is its deadening effect upon the intellect. The youthful mind is indoctrinated with fables and fairy tales handed down from half-civilized peoples, who lived in an age when the sun, moon and stars revolved 'round the earth, when diseases were caused by evil spirits, when miracles were performed daily, when the bones of a saint would cure fever or gout, when a prayer could restore life into a corpse, when the "saints" could walk on water or through fire, when a priest, for money, could assure you a place in Heaven, or could send you to the red hot Christian Hell if you disagreed with him in theology, and a thousand other types of the veriest nonsense — taught to the young mind as facts. Now, is a mind warped with such tommyrot in any position to grapple with the critical problems of a scientific age? A member of the British House of Commons, Mr. Nye Bevan, answers the question in a debate on December 20, 1957:

"The Communists used to delude themselves into believing that they would benefit from war. They believed that the extension of the frontiers of the Communist world would arise from war, and that the last two world wars had justified that belief.

"When I discussed this with Mr. Khrushchev, I pointed out that they could not rest any hopes of this sort on a third world war, because they would wipe out the capitalist world and the Communist world. There exists between us and the Communist world, whatever we may say against their policies, structure, principles and practice, at least one common bond, and that is to avoid a third world war breaking out.

"There has been no implementation of that recognition, and, if it is a fact, instead of issuing homilies against each other as Mr. Foster Dulles did immediately after the NATO conference, in which he adopts an almost religious attitude, and that is what I find so detestable about those speeches, they are always so attitudinizing and moralizing — we have an atmosphere charged with irrationalities in which we cannot discuss the realities of the situation at all.

"Mr. Dulles had said, 'This materialistic atheistic despotism aimed at dominating the world is a formidable challenge.' Have we armed ourselves to fight atheism? The whole of that language is — the language of a religious war.

"I am not here for one moment trying to justify the Communist point of view. I am trying to point out that we must strive to avoid getting the world polarized by two irrational attitudes. This was one of the things which depressed me in Washington, and it emerges in the document (on the NATO meeting) . . . I did not find inspiration so much as obsession . . .

"We believe there are people all over the world, and



My inborn sense of thrift  
Is thrilled with your free gift,  
But your subtle appeal  
Makes me feel like a heel  
Not to give the cause a lift.

S. Schey, Florida.

P.S.—I thought your letter was very clever

\* \* \*

I enjoy your magazine very much; it fills a need that has been long felt—for someone to tie together the various humanistic and freethought tendencies and DO something about them. More power to you.

Philip Watt, Illinois.

\* \* \*

Have read your splendid editorial "What is Rationalism?" in the November issue of *The American Rationalist*, but unfortunately the final paragraph is not correct.

"Man is the measure of all things" was not said by Pythagoras, but by the first sophist, Protagoras (481-411 B.C.). At 70 he was accused of atheism, fled to Sicily, and died at sea.

Perhaps this was the slip of the pen on account of the similarity of the names.

Theo. Svetcov, Calif.

(It was, Ed.)

\* \* \*

Dear Fellow Pagans:

Concerning the AR letter urging our readers to help AR by increasing subscriptions, tokens, etc., is a real masterpiece and one of the least objectionable "begging" letter I've ever been honored with. Most of them go straight in the waste can. The usual letters are full of sickly "do-goodism" and their principals never render any accounting of their treasures; you do, or have so far, down to the last leather nickel.

Anyway, this letter is filled with



sly, tongue-in-cheek good humor along with some stamps that I'll use. So I enclose herewith one of the two remaining Georges that at present grace my wallet.

I look forward to receiving the books I recently ordered from you. And, to paraphrase the late Bruce Calvert a bit:—

Yours, 'til the world's made safe for intelligence,

C. A. Lang.

Recently I came across a copy of The American Rationalist of July, 1957, and was impressed by your able presentation of the article on the FBI and infiltration by the Roman hierarchy. Information of this sort never sees the light of day except in mediums like the Rationalist, with a wide-awake, informed editor like yourself.

Sincerely,  
Otto Pauls, Missouri.

We enjoy the American Rationalist out here and are very enthusiastic about its contents and general appearance. It's just the best of its kind in this country, and we are recommending it to all our Fellowship members out here.

Fellowship of Humanity,  
Oakland, Calif., L.H.C.

I think you are doing a great job. My congratulations!

Bruce L. Melvin,  
Sociology Dept., U. of Maryland

Thanking you for the good you are doing. — The future belongs to us.

E. M. Arouze, Penna.

I enjoy your magazine THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST more all the time. More credit to you for the splendid job that you are doing.

Ben Parnell,  
Louisiana.

Congratulations to the American Rationalist on the January, 1958, issue, which is wide-awake and interesting throughout, but especially for the fine editorial.

Alvan L. Davis, N. H.

particularly in the United States, who would prefer that Great Britain would take a stronger and more independent line in foreign affairs. I believe that American official opinion lags far behind the readiness of the American people themselves. We believe the Government could put more heart into the whole world by taking a more independent lead.

"We are profoundly distressed that representative after representative of the Government gets up and repeats over and over again this liturgy of hate, injects into the international situation no element of buoyancy or optimism at all, and has no advice to give the nation except pile up one more tier of ridiculous armaments on the useless pile already created."

That the leading arm of the Christian Church wants war with Russia is too evident to call for proof. In fact, it has wanted war with Russia since the year 857 (filioque) and will continue to promote discord, friction and war with Russia as long as this same branch of Christianity is in political control of western governments. Since it now exercises such control over some three dozen nations and being a past master at the tactics of Machiavelli, it is in a position to make war or peace at its wish or whim, being accountable to none but a fictitious god, while the common man "takes the rap."

It is, of course, recognized that big business is making lots of money from our phony "defense"; however, no quarrel with Russia could be long sustained without the aid of "the only true church."

May I quote from the philosopher, George Santayana:

"The contemporary world has turned its back on the statement and even on the desire to live reasonably. The two\* great wars of the twentieth century were adventures in enthusiastic unreason."

"It was not religion that made people safely good, it was reason."

\*Now three.

## Membership Now Open to Individuals

AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION

Fastest growing Freethought  
Organization in America

For information write:

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, ARF.  
2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.

# SCIENCE



FEEDBACK...

## A Universal Principle

by Herman Stern

The term feedback as used in modern engineering terminology has been described as the principle inherent in a closed loop system of automatic control. Though this system had been utilized for many centuries its fuller implications had largely remained unrecognized until necessity, in the form of increasingly acute problems arising in our ever-more complex technology, dictated an increasing amount of research for its further development.

One of the very early forms of automatic control was a device to keep the sails of windmills facing into the wind. Consisting of a miniature windmill, it was so constructed that its sails were attached at right angles to the main ones, and whenever the latter faced the wrong direction, the wind caught the smaller sails which then rotated the mill to the correct position.

As our technology advanced and steam power appeared, the engine governor was invented which made possible the automatic control of its speed.

Here too, the principle of negative feedback was utilized by its inventor, James Watt. As the output (speed) of the steam engine increased, spinning flyballs connected by a linkage to the input valve would be impelled upward by centrifugal force and thereby close the input valve. The engine would then slow down in speed and the flyballs would droop due to the lessening

centrifugal force and adjust the input valve toward the open position.

This design too, as can readily be seen, is that of a closed loop; the input controls the output and, conversely, the output is determined by the input. Each is both cause and effect.

Prior to the recognition of the feedback principle, modern industry functioned largely by the utilization of manual and semi-automatic controls. The human operator served as a feedback link. He read the dials of measuring instruments and applied the necessary corrections by manipulating valves, levers or rheostats—he was the error detector, the controller and corrector. To be sure, this is the essence of control: measure, compare, correct and check the results.

As the speed and complexity of modern technology increased, the peak of human ability to keep up with the demands of the "machine" was inevitably reached and eventually exceeded. It now became necessary to endow the measuring instruments with the functions of control as well, and research bore fruit in the form of servo-mechanisms, regulators and process controllers. Simple controllers which measure and control but one variable e.g., temperature (thermostats), are no longer adequate and are giving way to computers that can assume some of the abilities of the human central nervous system: proportioning, anticipating and integrating; and for many specific operations the feedback loop has thus been closed minus the human link.

Today the design of a guided missile, for instance, is based largely on principles first developed in the design for the control of radio amplifier circuits and it may seem surprising that no connection between these developments was recognized.

Studies of the behavior of automatic control systems gave the engineers new insights into a variety of happenings in nature as well as in human affairs and the feedback principle is discerned in studies of human and animal behaviorism, physiology, and

even the boom and bust cycles of our economic system.

Self-regulating mechanisms in nature are often mistaken by man for the operation of some conscious design or vital force—and the weary croakings of the theologians that there is nothing new under the sun constitutes but a mere fragment of infinite truth.

Though Darwin was entirely unaware of the feedback concept he nevertheless invoked the principle when pressed for an explanation why there are more bumblebees near towns. Near towns, he explained, there are more cats. Ostensibly this would mean fewer field mice, and as field mice are the chief ravagers of bees' nests, bees enjoy more safety near towns.

From the viewpoint of pathology, symptoms of disease may be construed as disturbances in one or more of the vast multitude of interdependent feedback loops by means of which the physical organism functions and maintains homostatic stability. "If," states Dr. Norbert Weiner, "our bodily temperature rises or sinks one degree from its normal level of 98.6° F. we begin to take notice of it, and if it rises or sinks 10 degrees, we are all sure to die. The oxygen, carbon dioxide and salt in our blood, the hormones flowing from our ductless glands, are all regulated by mechanisms which tend to resist any untoward changes in their levels. These mechanisms constitute what is known as homeostasis, and are negative feedback mechanisms of a type that we may find exemplified in mechanical automata."

The implications inherent in automatic processes are many and quite varied; and the ultimate in technology, the automatic factory, will not appear suddenly. Step by step it is growing and eventually it will be here. Each step requires the utmost in imagination and inventiveness and will originate designs of control systems that will perform tasks that have no precedent in human history.

Undoubtedly, the impact of automation upon our social order will be far-reaching and, at times, severe. Moreover, the solu-

## We Have Real Competition

by LOWELL H. COATE

From every direction we are being bombarded daily with the humiliating information that the United States has suddenly become "a second rate power" because it has lost the race with the U.S.S.R. to be first in launching space Satellites. This news stares at us from the headlines and it is blasted at us from our radios and T.V. sets almost every hour of the day. But never do we read or hear a single word as to the real cause of this humiliation.

The sad fact is that our orthodox religions here in the United States for more than 300 years have opposed and retarded the development of science in our country and throughout the world with their unscientific dogmas. From the days of Darwin down to Bill Bryan, Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, and the other billies, it has been a battle for open-mindedness, for the scientific method, and for the scientific facts against ancient creeds and blind superstitions. For example, Bryan boasted that he was "more interested in Rock of Ages than in the age of the rocks." It has been "revelation" against the test tube, the telescope, the microscope, and the laboratory. It is the age-old conflict between science and religion.

With such an attitude on the part of our Fundamentalists, with the long struggle to get science into our public schools as well as into our church schools, the study of science has not had the backing it needed. Consequently it has not had the appeal for

---

tion of some problems may create new and possibly more difficult ones.

---

Sources:— The Human Use of Human Beings; Cybernetics and Society. Norbert Weiner, Doubleday Anchor, 1954.

Automatic Control. A symposium, ed. by editors of Scientific American, Simon & Schuster, 1955.

youth which it should have had. With the churches telling our children that scientists are godless and damned; with ignorance, dogma and bigotry dominating our religious thought rather than the open-mindedness required in scientific study, our century of national folly since the days of Darwin is now catching up with us.

Only 40 years ago Russia was 60% illiterate. She lost over 25,000,000 killed in two world wars. But the leaders of her revolution, godless though they were, were intelligent enough to recognize that progress in a scientific age depended on scientific education. These leaders refused to let the minds of the people be poisoned against science by the inculcation of unproved dogmas and absurd superstitions. We now see the result.

Perhaps some comparisons might be beneficial at this point. According to the November 15th issue of U.S. News & World Report, if your child were in Russia today, this is what he would face in school: in the fourth grade, biology; fifth grade, a foreign language; sixth grade, algebra, geometry; seventh grade, astronomy and calculus. The Soviets have worked out a hard-boiled and efficient school system. Stress is on work, not "life adjustment." Perhaps you wonder how a nation with a high degree of illiteracy only a generation ago, today appears to lead the world in science. The same publication then raises this question: "How has the Soviet Union managed to make the strides it has in education?" Do its methods differ from those in the United States? Is stress placed upon developing "rounded personality," with many so-called frills, or is training in the fundamentals?

The first comprehensive and objective study designed to answer these and other similar questions was made public November 10 by the U.S. Office of Education. The basic points developed by this study are outlined by Marion B. Folsom, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the Eisenhower Cabinet. Mr. Folsom reports as follows:

"Russian children tend to get more hours of instruction in their 10-year elementary and secondary system of schools than our children receive in 12 years, from first grade through high school.

"All Russian students, under the compulsory Russian curriculum, are introduced to biology in the fourth grade. They start foreign languages in the fifth grade. Physics, algebra and geometry come in the sixth grade. Chemistry is taught in the tenth grade, which is the last year of their secondary school.

"All Russian students graduating from the tenth grade in 1955 had completed five years of physics, four years of chemistry, six years of foreign language, and five years of mathematics above the level of arithmetic. In the same year, less than one third of American high-school graduates had taken a single year of chemistry. About 1 in 4 had had a single year of physics. Only 1 in 15 had taken advanced mathematics.

"The most qualified Russian high-school graduates (about 30%) are offered higher education. All but the poorest students are actually paid for going to college. Each year the average Russian college student gets twice as many hours of actual instruction as the American college student."

This is the system that is turning out nearly 225,000 physicists, engineers and other professionals each year. If Washington is anxious to "catch up" with Soviet science and engineering, its responsible leaders should note several relevant items. First, Soviet elementary schools, high schools, junior colleges and universities are emphasizing mathematics, science, and foreign languages, at the same time that United States education is dropping them from the course of study. Also an article in the New York Times Sunday magazine for September 15, 1957, reported that only 165 of the 1800 colleges in the United States teach the Russian language to some 4,000 students, while 10 million Soviet students are studying English. Again, the British Bookseller gives the yearly output of book titles of different books published as 11,901 for the

United States and 50,109 for the Soviet Union. And last, the Soviet Union graduates yearly about two and one half times as many scientists and engineers as does the United States. These are facts which should not only challenge our American youth but also very seriously impress those educational leaders who are responsible for our educational program in the United States.

The general attitude of our American youth may also have some bearing on this whole situation. It is interesting and enlightening to read the results of a survey recently made by the Y.M.C.A. of Chicago among 32,000 teen-agers in which the "Y" attempted to rank the interests of youth in the order of their appeal. To rank 16 interests in order of their importance to them, these 32,000 youth put "clothes and personal appearance" first, "sports" second, "going around with people my own age," third, and "parties and dances" fourth.

The really serious interests of adults ranked very low in the estimation of these 32,000 youth. "Current events" ranked ninth; "politics and political affairs" ranked fifteenth; "science and scientific things" ranked tenth; an interest in religion was well down the list of their interests. We should not be surprised that the more important interests as seen by youth seem frivolous to the eyes of adults. After all, our newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and orthodox organizations inculcating supernatural myths do a rather good job of brain-washing our youth to keep them juvenile.

What can we do to assure that youth does not remain a mass of individuals of arrested development? How can we help youth grow into adults with genuine interests? And how can we catch up with the Russians in their scientific advance? The answer is clear. We must have less insistence on supernaturalism and more on naturalism. We must have more intense scientific investigation and less "revelation." We must become more and more emancipated from the intellectual blight of the blind bigots who damn science and the findings of sci-

ence. We must not be handicapped in the scientific education of our children and of our young men and women by orthodox religionists who insist that scientific methods and scientific findings are sin and that scientists, as such, are godless and damned.

We are already hearing over the radio expressions of serious forebodings on the part of various religious leaders, who seriously fear "a great loss of faith" among the churches because of this new emphasis on science and scientific developments. This attitude was particularly expressed by leaders at the great National Conference in St. Louis last week where all the leading Protestant churches were represented.

If we Americans are serious about retaining our democracy, if we really want to achieve and maintain intellectual superiority and leadership, then we must do an about-face at once and begin to acquire a genuine respect and appreciation for science. We must resolutely oppose the influence of the bigoted "revelationists" in our education which has in the past, and still does in the present, prevent our advancement. That is the lesson of this hour for us Americans.

## THE BLIGHT UPON SCIENTIFIC MINDS

by Mrs. Daisy Gibson Buettner

ONE REASON why the proportion of truly scientific minds in the U.S. is so low at present is that the percentage of our population is high in minds with belief, or attempt at belief, in a religion of superstitions evolved from the misty ancient past which warps the reasoning power from birth of those reared in it. The better the mind, the more damage is done in adjusting it to the impossible.

Our nation was fought for, and its Government and Constitution formulated by a group of clear-minded deep thinkers **not** believers in orthodox religions. It is its separation of Church and State that has kept it doing so well so long. But today, due large-



ly to the cry "Communist" (the modern death to all business men and public aspirants) applied to anyone sensible enough to state disbelief in a religion started in the barbaric days of ox-cart intelligence and mulled over down the years, both our Press and Government are under the thumb of a Theocracy all but forcing attendance in some Church to be considered respectable, and a favoring of the adherents of one in all public positions. Young minds even started in efforts to make sense—or value—out of Virgin Birth and vicarious atonement (both naturally an impossibility) have their reasoning power weakened. The only way to start to remedy this is to spread the truth of the true evolution of religions as made possible by archeological excavations.

For our purpose, since we are considering only the U.S., we shall mention only the Christian Bible religion since that is the chief obstacle to scientific minds developing here. The whole idea of god-begotten sons started in veiled antiquity, but we shall start our investigation with facts derived from illustrations and plain decipherable writings on Pyramid tomb walls in Egypt about the worship of the Apis god—the sacred bull.

\*According to these records, the Apis bull had certain marks because it had been sired by a flame of fire from the Heavens, and the mother cow—also becoming revered—could never have another calf. (Making this, in a sense, her only beloved son.)

(incidentally, reincarnation, a false belief also, had a partial start here, for the same bull was supposed to come over and over and to be discerned by the same markings as in its former lives, similar to Tibet's practice, still in effect, of hunting for its new Lama, and reverencing his mother.)

After thousands of years, human minds began to shy at the idea of conception by fire from Heaven so it was changed to a god-spirit causing conception for a virgin. (If possible, which it is not, would this be any more virgin than a human mating?)

Also from clear pictures explained by writing now wholly deciphered, it is learned

that at one stage of Egypt religion, there was the rite of "eating a god." By that time, eating of a sacred animal had been substituted for cannibalism. This rite made the eater more holy.

Recently an origin film has been touring the U.S.—pictures taken by a doctor and wife—of the life and habits of a primitive African tribe heretofore unvisited by a white person, the KARAMOJA tribe near the Belgian Congo. Included were first pictures of their yearly religious observances. It is the rite of "eating their sacred god"—in this instance a goat, chosen as a kid for certain markings and cared for by a ranking person for this sacred job. Only at this ceremony once each year does the tribe eat meat. The year's god-goat is killed in a certain way by a certain high chief set apart for this.

The blood was drained immediately as the ruler chief and next chiefs (3 in all in this case with no one in the tribe allowed to observe) eagerly waited to drink the holy blood which was to renew their sanctity. It was offered in a large **wooden goblet** to the headchief first who passed it on. It went the rounds 3 times, each time having been refilled. Each one drank eagerly a long draught showing keen whole-body enjoyment. (It surely reminded me of the one goblet of dark wine passed from mouth to mouth along a long line at the altar of kneeling communicants, including my young teen-self, with the majority old and ailing, in my young Methodist days. Only I was admonished to only sip once.)

And this important goat-god tender—who was huge—the only person who could cut up the goat or touch its right hindleg, seemingly considered the most holy part to be eaten only by the ruler chief, had to lift this leg high, say some words, and then smite with full force the carcass left on the ground to impart a little of the divine strength into the rest of the meat which every member of the tribe, including the youngest babies, had to swallow at least one morsel of.

(Here was the idea of the plate of bread

# BOOKS

*In addition to the books reviewed and listed in this issue we can supply any book published in the USA and abroad. We can also handle your magazine subscriptions.*

*This is a service for our readers; any operating surplus will be used for the benefit of the "American Rationalist".*

*Make your checks, money orders, etc., payable to "Book Service, American Rationalist" and send them with your order to 2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.*

## "1000 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON CATHOLICISM"

by Philip O'Reilly

This convenient reference book has many questions that we might expect to put a Catholic on the spot. Why does he wear a religious medal? Why has his church a monarchical form of government? Why does God allow deformities at birth? Some of the answers are certainly different from what a similar book written a century or more ago could have presented, and not because of the advance of science so much as the advance in the prestige of science. Theology cannot always hold its medieval positions.

The book, which bears the Imprimatur of Cardinal Stritch, is directed to non-Catholics. Evidently it is expected to have an appeal for them, and it is useful to study with the purpose of learning what the appeal will be. Perhaps it is revealed in the section on moral teachings: the stern, parental attitude toward confused people who have no clear idea of their own motives or of the world.

Mr. O'Reilly begins with "life's mystery"—why am I and whither go I? This is

cut into tiny squares which was passed us, still kneeling at the altar rail, by a somber man following up the wine goblet as he continually repeated, "Partake of the body." All I can reason now about this rite of the Bible is that, if persons really believe it, they really believe they are practicing cannibalism, and if they do not believe this, they are merely acting hypocrites pretending to be doing what they know they are not.)

\* MOUNTAINS OF PHAROAH, 4th Chapter. By Leonard Cottrell, Rhinehart & Co., N.Y. 1956.

easily answered by a theology and is one of the questions Rationalists must learn to answer in a simple and satisfying way. There is the usual specious reasoning, based largely on catch phrases. We should try to be sympathetic with the mentality that needs simplicity, and learn how to adjust to such people without adopting either a mythology or the dogmatic attitude theology uses. Later, ceremonials and their trappings are described. Political assumptions and relations with Protestants are covered.

—Harry E. Mongold

Henry Holt & Co., \$3.95

"POPE JOAN," Chris Olsen, 15c

"BY THEIR FRUITS..."

Ira D. Cardiff, 15c

"WHY I DO NOT BELIEVE IN A GOD,"

Arthur G. Cromwell, 20c

The first of these small pamphlets contains stories and speculations concerning a woman who may have acted as pope from 853 to 855. The tale is largely of historical interest but is a mystery in its own right; one difficult to find material on. While reading it, I felt at one point the same thrill that comes from an absorbing detective story, where the decisive evidence may turn up at any moment.

There does not seem to be any such evidence. If only we understood how legends are started, we might be able to judge better whether this is merely a legend. I think it reasonable to suppose that some heretic invented and spread the myth in the eleventh century. Perhaps it is equally reasonable to suppose that a tale having such significant support from the ceremonials of Rome must be true. At any rate, it makes good reading.

The second and third pamphlets are reprints from our magazine. Cardiff's statistics on the proportion of Roman Catholics that are criminals are concrete evidence against Christianity. He attacks Catholicism as the nearest to the original church. An excellent article to distribute to Christian acquaintances, at least those who will not hate you for trying.

Cromwell's powerful address to the St. Stephen's Methodist Church, Marblehead, Mass., is a frank and capable statement of the non-theist position. Many points of argument are covered and in my opinion covered well. For clarity of mind on the logic of non-theism, this is a winner.

—Harry E. Morgold

### **"MAN HIS OWN MASTER"**

by Archibald Robertson

The human mind is the most magnificent creation of the evolutionary process. Throughout space, throughout time, there is nothing to equal the majestic wonder and power of the supreme phenomena—our own minds. A writer fully awake to this glory, and awake to religious dogma's blighting of mind, is Archibald Robertson, who writes "Man His Own Master" for the world-famous Thinker's Library.

I am appalled that, as Robertson tells us, religionists should be so blind as to declare that "man is a fallen creature, incapable by himself of either knowing the truth or doing the right thing." What devil's drivel is this, that decries the human mind, which, through scientific observation, has altered and bettered the physical face of society more in the last hundred years than throughout all previous history!

The book tells of such examples of human ability as Protagoras, Bacon, Copernicus, Bruno, Newton, Hobbes, and Spencer. The power of science as "organized common sense" is fully appreciated. On the other hand, "To anyone who has assimilated the evidence of modern anthropology the established religion, especially in its Catholic form, must appear a pre-scientific survival."

"The humanist philosophy regards sci-

entific method as the only means of gaining greater knowledge of the universe. We enlarge our knowledge by observing facts, by framing theories to cover the observed facts, by putting those theories to the test of experiment, and by correcting them in the light of its results." What a fine intelligence is here, ranging widely and wisely across the ever fascinating face of life, an inspiration to us all.

—Gordon Caulfeild

C. A. Watts & Co., 50c

### **SHORT REVIEWS**

"Experimental Psychology and Other Essays," I. Pavlov, Philosophical Library, 653 pp., \$7.50. — Essays and speeches covering the learning process, hypnosis, mental illness, and the physiology of digestion. Discussions of the Gestalt school sharply reject their philosophical dualism but accept that configurations are important to perception. Valuable book, showing Pavlov a clearer thinker than the Behaviorists who supposedly followed his lead.

"Trust and Meaning," D. Greenwood, Philosophical Library, \$3.75. — Essays on semantics and logic for those who are already familiar with the terms and problems. Sensible thinker with good contributions to the field.

### **BOOKS RECEIVED:**

- "CITADEL, MARKET, AND ALTAR," Science of Society Foundation, \$6.00
- "A BOOK OF CONTEMPLATION," Philosophical Library, \$3.00
- "PREHISTORIC MAN," Philosophical Library, \$4.75
- "1000 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON CATHOLICISM," Henry Holt & Co., \$3.95
- "TRUTH AND MEANING," Philosophical Library, \$3.75
- "DISCUSSION ON DEMOCRACY," Exposition Press, \$3.50
- "A PRIEST SPEAKS HIS MIND," Rev. O'Gorman, \$2.25
- "CAN MATERIALISM EXPLAIN MIND?" Pioneer Press, 60c
- "THE PHILOSOPHY OF HUMANISM," Philosophical Library, \$4.75
- "HUMAN RELATIONS AND POWER," Philosophical Library, \$3.75
- "ETHICS," Philosophical Library, \$7.50
- "IN SEARCH OF REALITY," Philosophical Library, \$7.50

# LET NOT THE PRIESTS . . . BREAK THROUGH !

(Ex. XIX, 24)

Congress has resumed business, and we who abhor the government trend toward making Christianity its official religion must be alert. The very first issue of the **Congressional Record** for this session lists on page 34 a bill—H. J. Res. 462, introduced by Rep. J. Floyd Breeding of Kansas—which provides for "the annual issuance of a special postage stamp to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ in the true spirit of Christmas." This proposed bill has been referred to the Committee on Post Office & Civil Service.

It seems to me that the true spirit of Christmas lives rather in the joy of giving and in the pleasure of a less critical fellowship among ourselves than is usual during most of the year.

Let us keep in mind, also, the so-called "Christian Amendment" introduced as a bill in the U. S. Senate by Carlson (Kans.), and in the U. S. House by Utt (Calif.), George (Kans.), Smith (Kans.), Avery (Kans.), Breeding (Kans.), Rees (Kans.), Clark (Penn.), and Siler (Ky.). This is still a live issue for, even though introduced last year, these bills are carried over. The "Christian Amendment" bills currently lie dormant in the House Judiciary Committee, but in the Senate preparations now are under way to hold a hearing on it before a Senate Judiciary sub-committee, Senator Kefauver (Tenn.) chairman.

Even though you may feel that the "Christian Amendment," which would "devoutly recognize the authority and law of Jesus Christ" as a legal part of our U. S. Constitution, could not be a vicious medium for legalized intolerance and inquisition, yet such law has served in the past as a means to "liquidate" religious "heretics."

Let us go to the Bible for Jesus' reputed words regarding his authority. Read now the words of Jesus himself:

**Matt. 10:34**—Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I come not to send peace, but a sword.

**Matt. 19:29**—And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

**Matt. 25:41**—Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

## AR • CLASSIFIED COLUMN • AR

Twelve words, or less (minimum) \$1.00  
Each additional line, (six words) .50

LET US REASON TOGETHER, poem, by Fred Rosenberg, five cents each, 3 for 10c — 40 for \$1.00. Rationalist Publications, 2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.

## POEMS

Original and collected  
by SAM HILL  
— 50 cents —

Rationalist Society of St. Louis  
2218 St. Louis Avenue  
St. Louis 6, Mo.

FOR SALE—Comic Postcard Cards, Set of six. No. 1 to 6. Drawn by Ottokar. Price 5c each, all six for 25c. Order from AMERICAN RATIONALIST, 2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

FOR SALE—Ottokar Comic Cards, Second set of six. No. 7 to 12. "You don't have to say it, the card does the job for you." Price 5c each, all six for 25c. Order from AMERICAN RATIONALIST, 2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.

## HOW TO ORGANIZE

a Rationalist Group

ARF Pamphlet No. 1 FREE to interested persons wanting to start a group in their locality. — Write to:

AMERICAN RATIONALIST FEDERATION  
2218 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis 6, Mo.

## THE PRINTING PLANT

that gives  
nation-wide service

to all

- RATIONALIST
- FREETHOUGHT
- HUMANIST
- SECULARIST
- LABOR
- CULTURAL

organizations

HAVE ALL YOUR  
PRINTING NEEDS  
done by

**cf PRINTING SERVICE**  
4124 WEST 26th STREET  
CHICAGO 23, ILLINOIS  
a union printing shop

**Matt. 25:46**—And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.

**Mark 16:16**—He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**Luke 14:23**—And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

**Luke 14:33**—So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

**Luke 19:27**—But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

**John 3:18**—He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**John 15:14**—Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

**Rev. 2:23**—And I will kill her children with death: and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts; and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

**Rev. 2:26, 27**—And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. Unquote.

Those are the words of Jesus. Forget them as the words of an ancient Hebrew prophet, and try thinking of them as being part of the basic law of our U. S. Constitution, and consider the implications!

Not even a Hitler, a Stalin nor a Torquemada could ask for more power, more legal right to oppress and murder non-conformists, than these words of Jesus give if accepted as law!

From the New Testament times to the present, history proves repeatedly that these words of Jesus are the words that Christians hold as law wherever Christian law dominates the civil law. Jesus' words of love are reserved for use only where Christians are a minority, or where church-state separation is strongly enforced by civil law. Be ye warned!

Ben Parnell, Baton Rouge, La.

## IS HELL NECESSARY?

Hell broke loose in Pasco, Wash., spread through the Episcopal District of Spokane, and gave the bishop something to worry about.

The trouble began with a sermon in Pasco's Church of Our Saviour by energetic Rector Charles Lester Kinsolving, 30. "Hell", he preached, "is a damnable doctrine—responsible for a large measure of this world's hatred. According to this doctrine, God, who commands us to love our enemies, plays the hypocrite by damning his enemies. This in turn stimulates the hatred of God by people who abhor this hypocrisy—and it gives sanction to our hatred of certain selected enemies."

RECTORS CLASH OVER HELL, bannered the Columbia Basin News, and the air was soon thick with theology. — Kinsolving was within his rights, said some. "Kinsolving's theology is sensationalism," said one clergyman. "He preaches on sex and questions the virgin birth. He's completely different from the rest of us in every way — he gets up at 11 in the morning and goes to bed at 4 a.m."

Said School Principal Woodrow Epp: "What Kinsolving said is, in my opinion, completely compatible with what I thought was the Episcopal Church. He's shaken up a lot of people's beliefs since he came here, and by the holy gods of war, this congregation needs a shaking."

Young Rector Kinsolving's congregation obviously likes the shaking he is giving it. He moved to Pasco four months ago from a mission vicarage in California, an earlier tour as intern chaplain at San Quentin Prison and two years as an adman in Philadelphia and

HERE IS THE HIGHEST MENTAL  
ADVENTURE, MAKE SELF-RESPECT  
YOUR RELIGION

**THE FORTEAN SOCIETY**

Box 192

Grand Central Annex, New York, N.Y.



Phoenix, Arizona, has a strong Episcopal family background (his father, grand-father, great-uncle and cousin were or are bishops). Said a fellow clergyman: "Who's Who is on his side—even if the Episcopal is not." At Pasco, Kinsolving has broken all church attendance records, more than doubled church pledges, and (as one parishioner puts it) made more pastoral calls "than any minister I know ever did in a whole year."

Bishop Russell S. Hubbard of the Spokane district publicly deplored the argument, but agreed that Kinsolving's preaching had been "within the allowable latitude of the church." Says Kinsolving: "I held this belief throughout my theological training (Church Divinity School of the Pacific). I came into the priesthood to preach the truth as I see it, because I believed this is one of the few churches in which it could be done. And I'd keep on preaching it if I had to preach on the sidewalk." —Time, Dec. 30, 1957

#### BLANSHARD PROTESTS SOME CHURCH TAX EXEMPTIONS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (AP)—Congress was asked yesterday to end the federal tax exemption now given to certain church-related activities.

The request was presented to the House Ways and Means Committee by Paul Blanshard, special counsel for Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Blanshard said churches get tax-exemption on certain business income including such "non-religious anomalies as the manufacture of brandy, the sale of commercial time on radio stations, and the commercial sale of baked goods."

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Roman Catholics are allowed to believe many myths that cannot stand the test of fair investigation.—Professor Grisor.

He (Washington) had no belief in the divine origin of the Bible.

—Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green.

## THE CAMEL'S NOSE AGAIN

Just before the Christmas season the AMERICAN HUMANIST ASS'N. issued a statement warning against any "theological exploitation" of Christmas or of the Jewish Holiday Hanukah in public schools. They asked for a code of Fair Play to make Christmas celebrations in public schools acceptable to parents of all faiths. The statement cited as an example of the unlawful exploitation of Christmas an appropriation of \$5,000 by the City Council of Elizabeth, New Jersey, on October 7th which provided at taxpayer's expense the first official Christmas nativity scene in Scott Park. The month of December has become a month of embarrassment and distress for many religious liberals and for religious minority groups because public schools tend to engage in the theological exploitation of Christmas and in some cases the Jewish holiday, Hanukah. Public funds should not be used for religious exercises, the use of property for creches, religious pageants or religious monuments. The United States is neither a Christian nor a Jewish nation in any official sense. Religion is a personal matter, divorced from state favoritism. Our forefathers, by writing the principle of church-state separation into the Constitution intended to prohibit government preference among faiths, and also government preference for the believer against the unbeliever. In view of this, the Humanists pointed out that the celebration of Christmas in all public institutions should be carefully safeguarded in order to guarantee fair play and equality to the millions of parents and others who do not accept orthodox interpretations of history.

Arthur G. Cromwell.

## HALF-WISDOM

How swift our half-wise judgment to condemn  
The deed that had been ours but for the chance  
That deals unequal cards to equal men,  
Pitting clean wills against the circumstance.  
Not theirs alone the glory who have kept  
A straight and even road beneath bright stars,  
But his as well whom utter darkness swept  
Down in the dust to rise again with scars.  
Who knows how well some staunch heart holds the walls  
Against the siege of subtle powers until  
At last, when the unguarded hour befalls,  
They pierce the armor of a wearied will?  
Or when some flagging nerve has failed his need  
What sharp goads press him to the unsought deed?

Hugh Robert Orr

WALTER HOOPS

## At Random . . .

From the pen of Bruce Catton, one of America's best historical writers, comes this estimation of Thomas Paine:

From our present lofty eminence, we may, if we wish, dismiss him as a mere pamphleteer — except that a pamphleteer is, after all, a writer. Furthermore, there was nothing mere about Thomas Paine. The American Revolution would not have gone just as it did without his writings. Within reasonable limits, we can say that we owe our very existence as an independent people to the fact that this man wrote and to the added fact that his fellows listened to him.

Professor Bober of Appleton, Wis.: If God were half as nice to us as we are to him, we'd be living in paradise.

A former FBI man is now a preacher in a small town in up-state New York. He says that he plans to fight "crime at its source." The statistics about church affiliation of our prison population must have made a profound impression on Mr. Hoover's ex-helper.

A book has been written about the almost legendary Waco, Texas, publisher of the "Iconoclast," William Cowper Brann. His colorful and expressive language is a delight to read. Religious bigots, he wrote, are "equal to any crime requiring no personal courage," a clergyman is "a bag of fetid wind" and "The man who can find intellectual food in sermons could acquire a case of delirium tremens by drinking the froth out of a pop bottle."

Coming out of church the other Sunday morning, a reluctant visitor remarked: There goes another hour shot to heaven.

The minister advertised that the poor are welcome at all times and checking the collection plate he found that they had come.

Nothing will repay a man for becoming inhuman. The aim of life is some way of living, as flexible and gentle as human nature; so that ambition may stoop to kindness, and philosophy to candor and humor. Neither prosperity nor empire nor heaven can be worth winning at the price of a virulent temper, bloody hands, an anguished spirit, and a vain hatred of the rest of the world.

Santayana, 1914.

Beware of Bible Salesmen. When a woman in Ohio refused to buy his product, the peddler took an ax and chopped the door to splinters.

Did you miss these bargains in "religious articles" during the holiday rush?: a Play-Mass set, a Pearl and Silver finished Rosary with a suelial clasp that converts it into a most attractive double-strand necklace, or a Musical Madonna which glows softly with comforting concealed light.

### TO THE EDITOR — THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS:

Of the several forces that are operating to weaken American democracy and lead our nation toward a "dictatorship of the commonplace", perhaps the most threatening and least understood is clericalism.

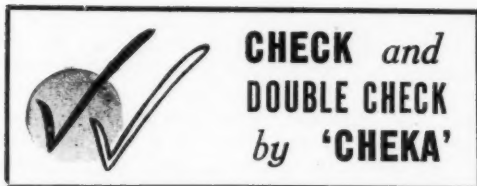
Although our nation's founders deliberately set up a secularist state by omitting any reference to theological concepts in our Constitution and by setting up the First Amendment to erect, in Jefferson's words, a wall of separation between church and state, clericalists in Congress and elsewhere in recent years have modified our currency, our postage stamps, our Pledge of Allegiance, our national motto and even our postal cancellation markings to reflect undeniably sectarian religious sentiments and concepts. On the local level, clericists have interjected elements of religious dogmatism and sectarian subjectivity into public school curricula, have "captured" some public schools for the purpose of operating them as religious schools, and have operated vicious and undemocratic censorship organizations and pressure groups. Clericalists have also made open demands for state and federal funds for sectarian indoctrination.

These actions, which have gone virtually unopposed and unpublicized, have eroded our traditional religious freedom and have given strength and support to the least democratic elements in our society.

Paying hypocritical lip service to outworn mythologies can do nothing whatever to strengthen our nation in the ideological "cold war" and can only further alienate democratic elements in the non-Western world. From both political and ideological points of view, any regression from the humanistic secularism of Jefferson, Paine, Madison and Franklin is a weakening of the very fabric of our democracy.

Edd Doerr.

Editor's comment:— This is an excellent example of a restrained, intelligent letter of a type that has, at least, a 50-50 chance of being published.



#### SO MANY THINGS . . .

There is so much to tell our readers this month that I do not know where to begin. We might as well start with a message from Uncle Sam: The Post Office Department has asked for help in a campaign to speed up delivery in the mails. If you have a postal delivery zone number, please send it to us the next time you communicate with our office, so we may enter it in our records.

#### SECOND BIRTHDAY COMING UP . . .

With the next issue of the American Rationalist we will be celebrating the second birthday of our WONDERFUL magazine. Of course, it is a wonderful magazine, hundreds of letters that we receive say so, just read the "IN THE MAIL" column every issue. And in checking and double checking all the issues during the two years, I do say, IT IS THE TOPS! So, if we all say that we have a wonderful magazine, how about sending in a birthday greeting with a buck or two, of course. Or maybe a new sub? Huh? Don't sidetrack this hint and mail your greeting to St. Louis today so it doesn't miss the anniversary issue.

#### WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS . . .

Our editor, Mr. A. B. Hewson, was presented with the first cloth bound volume of our magazine. We have a limited supply and if you wish to have one for your library, send in \$5 for one. But, you must hurry.

#### IN PREPARATION . . .

Only a million tracts . . . "AR-GRAMS" . . . will be rolling off the press real soon. Watch the next issue of the AR for more particulars.

#### GOING LIKE HOT CAKES . . .

Before the holidays our office sent out a letter full of humor to our readers with some stamps-stickers. The response from our readers was so gratifying that I am taking this opportunity in saying many, many thanks to all of you. And, dear friends, if you want additional stamps you can order more of them. For a dollar we will send you five sheets or 300 stamps.

#### WE PROPOSE . . .

We would like to propose to our readers a bigger magazine, say, eight additional pages: or, AR every month. We are cutting down on big ads, so we can give our readers more reading

material, but with no success. Already today the printer has enough material set up to make four issues of the magazine, you can imagine what we are against. We could add pages very easily, but we still haven't enough dinero to pay for it. Dear reader, what do you suggest, increase the price of subscription to \$3 or \$4? In reality it would not be an increase in price, but you would be getting something extra for the something extra you will pay. How about telling us your point of view in this matter?

#### NEW REPRINTS . . .

In the pages of the AR you have read a splendid article by James Hervey Johnson. Also Mr. A. B. Hewson's splendid editorial "Unitarianism and Rationalism" is off the press. These speeches can now be had in a pamphlet form, be sure to order a supply today. The price is 3 for 10c, 40 for \$1.

#### WE HAVE HEADACHES TOO!

Remember that everytime you move, we have to change your address. That costs eight cents. Some readers move and don't give us their new addresses, the magazine comes back, marked, "MOVED, LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS". That costs another five cents . . . and some checks that we get are printed on rubber made paper, because they bounce and bounce. Now, our bank doesn't like that, and we have another charge to take care of . . . a whole buck . . . imagine! Another thing that is costly is that many subscriptions sent in are not clearly written and sometimes it takes weeks before we can locate the right party so we can mail them the AR.

Folks, these are few of the "gripes" we run across. Once in a while we get a bit irritated over the trials and frivolities we have, BUT WE ARE ALL VERY, VERY PLEASED OVER OUR SECOND YEAR IN PUBLISHING THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST. And, folks, do you know how to put the boys in our St. Louis office in a better mood? Yesireee! . . . send in a happy birthday greeting . . . Yesireee!

#### A BOOK CATALOG FOR YOU . . .

As you have already noticed, we have omitted the listing of books in the magazine. We have now prepared an up-to-date catalog of most rationalist literature. This catalog is yours for the asking. And be sure to order your books and periodicals thru the AR book department in St. Louis.

#### ENOUGH IS ENOUGH . . .

Now that I have finished with my braggadocio and inserted a few "gripes" in the column too, I find I haven't anything to write about anymore . . . see you in May . . . vic

# we honor . . .

by JOHN A. ENGLISH

## MARCH

- 7, 1849 **Luther Burbank** born, who developed many new varieties of fruits, trees, vegetables and flowers. An outspoken freethinker, he was a friend of Ingersoll and Edison.
- 7, 1850 **Thomas G. Masaryk** born, first president of the Czecho-Slovak republic. A liberal philosopher by training, he restricted Catholic influence on education and led a long and bitter fight against the Vatican.
- 8, 1948 **Vashti McCollum's** famous case decided in her favor by the U.S. Supreme Court, strengthening secularism. Mrs McCollum has told the story of her long struggle in "A Woman's Fight." Her father, Arthur G. Cromwell, is assistant editor of this magazine.
- 13, 1733 **Joseph Priestley** born, who turned from theology to science and is often called the father of modern chemistry. His "History of the Corruption of Christianity," published in 1782 was officially burnt a few years later. Persecuted for his liberal political and theological views, he came to the U.S. and helped the Unitarians in Philadelphia.
- 26, 1838 **Wm. E. H. Lecky** born, whose 2 volume "History of Rationalism," published in 1865, is one of the cornerstones of free-thought literature and still available to-day. Next to Gibbon he ranks as England's foremost historian and freethinker.

## APRIL

- 2, 1840 **Emile Zola** born, Famous French agnostic writer and leading anti-Catholic. He fought in all his important novels for a secular education and exposed the reactionary role of the clergy in politics. His celebrated article "J'accuse" was instrumental in exposing the conspiracy against Dreyfus.
- 3, 1837 **John Burroughs** born, American naturalist and humanist who recognized the importance of his friend Walt Whitman and worked hard to make this country aware of one of its greatest poets. His writings are in the Thoreau tradition.
- 9, 1865 **C. P. Steinmetz** born, in Germany and fled the "fatherland" because of socialist activities. His innumerable inventions laid the foundation for most electrical devices in

use to-day. He remained loyal to the dreams of his youth and was proud to call himself a freethinker.

- 13, 1743 **Thomas Jefferson**, America's most gifted and versatile president, born. Credited by most historians with writing the "Declaration of Independence" which reflects very closely the writings of John Locke and Thomas Paine. Jefferson had a deep faith in people enlightened by a free, secular school and a free press and had no use for clerical domination over the mind of man. He was a deist as were most of our early statesmen who had been influenced by the European enlightenment.
- 16, 1844 **Anatole France** born, French Nobel prize winner, satirist and humanist writer. His "Revolt of the Angels" and "Penguin Island" are good examples of his anti-clerical, ironical style.
- 18, 1857 **Clarence Darrow** born, the most effective opponent of bigotry, cant and special privilege this country has produced. Champion of the "underdog," he was a lifelong rationalist and ridiculed the fundamentalist notions of Bryan in the famous Scopes evolution trial.

---

## RATIONALIST BOOK CLUB

### FIRST BOOK SELECTION

### THE RIGHT TO HERESY

CASTELLO against CALVIN  
by STEFAN ZWEIF

Second Book Selection  
A CHRISTMAS STORY  
by H. L. Mencken

HEAVENLY HUMOR  
TO FOLLOW IN THE SPRING

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN THE BOOK CLUB.

Dues for 4 books a year \$4.00; Combination Rate with Renewal Subscription or new subscription of AR \$5.00.

## RATIONALIST BOOK CLUB

2218 St. Louis Ave.

St. Louis 6, Mo.

---

